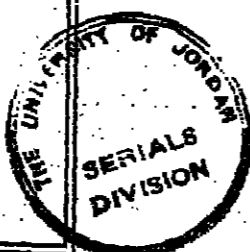


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Inbar wins world silver

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## Nov. CPI surprisingly down 0.3%

By DAVID HARRIS

Inflation this year is heading for eight percent, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics, following yesterday's publication of the November consumer price index, which registered a fall of 0.3%, to 153.6 points.

Within that figure, the housing index fell 1.5% and the cost of fruit and vegetables by 3.2%.

Job seeking up 1.2%, Page 13

Economists had predicted the CPI would rise by 0.3%-0.5%. "This is only one month and should not be taken in isolation," said bureau spokesman David Neumann.

October's CPI increased 1.2% and economists say the two must be seen together. The average for the last two months was close to 0.5%.

Economist Haim Ben-Shahar predicted that 1998 inflation could well fall between 4%-5%, if the correct government policies are followed. This means keeping to tight fiscal policy and not allowing public sector wage agreements to deliver real increases.

Full story, Page 13



### In memory of Nachshon Wachsman

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu shakes hands with Labor Party leader Ehud Barak during yesterday's dedication of the Nachshon Wachsman Center for Tolerance and Understanding in Jerusalem, as the center's head, Prof. Binyamin Ish-Shalom, looks on. During the ceremony, the leaders signed a tolerance declaration entitled 'Peace in Israel.'

(Brian Hendler)

## Clinton welcomes Khatami remarks

By HILLEL KUTTNER and JAY BUSHINSKY

WASHINGTON - US President Bill Clinton said yesterday he was "encouraged" that Iranian President Mohammed Khatami said he would welcome a dialogue with the American people.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said it is too early to judge whether Teheran was actually changing.

"I was encouraged by Mr. Khatami's statement," Clinton told reporters. "It was welcome. And I will say again: I would like nothing better than to have a dialogue with Iran, as long as we can have an honest discussion of all the relevant issues."

"We remain concerned about the

sponsorship of terrorism, about violent attacks on the peace process, about development or acquisition of weapons of mass destruction, and we will continue to be concerned about those things. But I was quite encouraged by the president's statement, and I think the American people should be," Clinton added.

The US has long maintained it was amenable to resuming contacts with Teheran, provided the interlocutors were official representatives, and that any dialogue was publicly acknowledged.

Clinton's statements, coming just a day after Khatami's remarks, seemed meant to acknowledge it considers the approach as sincere.

See CLINTON, Page 2

## Senior gov't source: No pullback till June

By JAY BUSHINSKY and LIAT COLLINS

A government decision on the scope of the IDF's next withdrawal will not be made until the end of next month at the earliest, and the actual pullback will not take place until June, a senior source predicted yesterday.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu evidently will have this timetable in mind when he confers with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in Paris on Thursday. He will convene the cabinet for another session on redeployment this afternoon, and expects the four-member ministerial team to discuss it again after his return from France and Luxembourg on Thursday. Next week, all of the government's ministers will tour the West Bank areas under discussion.

Netanyahu has asked Foreign Minister David Levy to accompany him to Paris and participate in the talks with Albright at the private residence of Ambassador Avi Pazner. But Levy will not make a decision until after today's cabinet meeting. Cabinet secretary Dan Naveh is to accompany Netanyahu.

Although Albright is scheduled to meet Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in London, the idea of turning this into a three-sided session or holding an Israeli-Palestinian summit there apparently has been dropped. The source said it is essential for the government to proceed cautiously and to weigh every move.

"This is not something that will be over in a flash," he said. He conceded that there still are differences between the maps drawn by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, but described them as "much less than meets the eye."

Netanyahu intends to bring a set of maps with him to London, but

they will be for illustrative purposes and not represent precise and binding geographical commitments, the source said.

The refusal to specify an exact percentage was justified on the grounds that premature disclosure would prompt Palestinian demands for a more extensive withdrawal "and could set the stage for a crisis."

He contends that the Palestinians' initial expectations have been substantially reduced. "At the outset, they thought they would be given 92 percent of the West Bank," he said, "with at least 30 percent to be ceded to them in each pullback."

One of the as-yet unresolved topographical problems is the route to be followed by the new

Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway extension, known as Route 45, which begins at Ben-Shemen, passes through Nahal Modi'in, skirts Ramallah, and ends near Ramot. The mapmakers want it to be incorporated in one of the projected security zones.

Netanyahu's rationale for discussing these details with Albright is based on the belief that the US should be kept informed and given periodical updates on the cabinet's deliberations on the assumption that the US will convey this information to the Palestinians.

Netanyahu told the Likud Knesset faction that the government is drawing up a document with its demands for the Palestinians. He said the previous government decided the scope of the redeployment and only afterwards its security needs.

"We are doing it the other way round," he said.

Netanyahu said there are only small differences between the maps drawn up by Mordechai and Sharon, because under the terms of the Oslo Accords, not only Israel's security needs but its settlement needs must be met.

"It's important the public knows the direction in which we are going," he said. "We are making our bottom line clear."

Likud MK Ze'ev Begin asked what is entailed in the five months in which the way the Palestinians abide by their commitments will be examined.

## Mordechai: Withdrawal may harm some West Bank settlements

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and TIM

"There is a possibility that the second redeployment will cause some damage to settlements in Judea and Samaria, but I understand that if there is any, it will be very small," Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday during a visit to Ariel.

His words brought an angry reaction from the leaders of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, with whom he met.

"We're talking about an extremely difficult meeting, one to which it is very hard to come up with an immediate response to," said council chairman Pinhas Wallerstein. "But it is certain that we will be speaking soon to discuss this seriously."

"Mordechai did not speak of



Ariel Mayor Ron Nahman (Eliahu Harari)

evacuating settlements, that would violate the [Oslo] Accords, but he was speaking about some settlements. For example, I have doubts whether Ariel residents will be able

to drive directly to Jerusalem." As Mordechai arrived for the meeting, 10 demonstrators protested the proposed withdrawal. Mordechai approached the demonstrators, but quickly left them in anger saying: "Don't attempt to lecture me."

Ariel spokeswoman Sondra Oster Baras said that Mordechai had referred to the two maps, one based on security interests and the other on "national interests," such as roads and water resources. He said he is being used as reference maps in the current cabinet discussions.

The settlers are facing a dilemma, said Ariel Mayor Ron Nahman, in that the government, which the settlers fought so hard to have elected, has not supplied them with facts regarding the withdrawal.

See MORDECHAI, Page 2

See PULLBACK, Page 2

## Indyk, Assad meet Syrian VP receives MK Bashara

DAMASCUS (Reuters) - Syrian President Hafez Assad held five hours of talks with US Assistant Secretary of State Martin Indyk yesterday on how to revive the Syrian-Israeli peace talks.

Presidential spokesman Joubran Kourieh said the talks covered the peace process and "the importance of abiding by the principles on which the process was based."

"The talks covered bilateral ties and the appropriate atmosphere to

develop them," Kourieh said. He said Foreign Minister Farouk Shara and US Ambassador to Syria Christopher Ross were present at the meeting.

Officials said Indyk, visiting Syria as part of a Middle East tour, had talks earlier with Shara on the latest developments in the peace process and "ways of reaching a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East."

Indyk refused to answer reporters' questions after his talks with Shara, but diplomats said he was carrying fresh ideas on resuming the Syrian-Israeli negotiations. Also in Syria was MK Azmi Bashara (Hadashi), who said there could be no Palestinian state or right of return with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in power.

See INDYK, Page 2

## Handling the under-sexed ostrich

By JUDY SEGEL

Agriculture researchers at the Hebrew University are not the sort to stick their heads in the sand when animals are having sexual problems.

A group of experts recently got around a problem with ostriches who were showing more attraction to their human handlers than to birds of the opposite sex.

They did this by creating a *menage a trois* arrangement in which the handler would remain on the scene without interfering with a sexual encounter between an avian pair.

Far from being a matter of entertainment, boosting ostrich reproduction is an economic issue, given that the country is second in the world, behind South Africa in ostrich-raising.

The unusual project, financed by the Rashi Foundation, involved Assaf Navot of the HU Faculty of Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Quality Sciences in Rehovot, working under the supervision of Dr. Israel Rozenbolm, Dr. Gadi Gvaryahu, Nachum Snopir, all from Hebrew University, and Prof. Allan Degen, of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

The researchers found that without intervention,

bred ostriches were showing the fertility rate of a high-powered yuppie couple in the suburbs.

The fertility of their eggs averages only 50 percent, which is at the low end of chick production compared to other cultivated fowl.

Since the ostrich is often pig-headed and sometimes violent, attempts by farmers to increase the number of offspring have been very difficult.

Navot has found that the reproduction of bred ostriches could be improved by introducing a male and a female who are attracted to their handlers, in the presence of one of the handlers.

This technique "enhances their sexual arousal," Navot said.

As the ostriches mate, the handler - using a special technique - collects semen from the male for later use in artificial insemination.

This has proven to be a more efficient and effective method than natural reproduction.

The team has even succeeded to a certain extent in tempting male ostriches to ejaculate by showing them female ostrich "sex dolls."

But technical problems have made it hard to collect the semen.

They have stopped short of trying pornographic movies.

## Change in Iran may occur, but slowly

Iranian President Mohammed Khatami's moderate tone may mark the beginning of an important change in Iran, according to Prof. David Menashri, who holds the Nazarin Chair for Modern Iranian Studies at Tel Aviv University.

However, it is far too early to judge if Khatami's statements represent a "slight breeze" or a definite change. One should not only follow Teheran's words, Menashri said, but also its tone.

For his part, Menashri believes Teheran's change is substantive. "Khatami has raised some ideas that were difficult for many Iranians to accept for a long time, such as the need for dialogue, and to discuss issues with other countries, including the US," he said.

An indication of pending change is Khatami's repetition of his remarks: twice at last week's Islamic summit and then in a press conference Sunday. It has been customary in Iran for officials who raised relatively moderate arguments to be forced to ultimately retreat from them in the face of massive criticism, Menashri explained.

The fact the Khatami held this press conference on Sunday and not only reiterated the same arguments, but took them one step further "is in itself a signal that something important is going on."

Menashri said. Still, Menashri cautions that the current change is far from what would quickly generate a full-fledged US-Iran rapprochement.

Avatollah Ali Khamenei is undoubtedly still the supreme leader of Iran and he views the situation differently, as could be seen from his speech to the Islamic Conference last week, Menashri said.

Khatami has at least a theoretical mandate, after being elected in May by 70 percent of the electorate. According to Menashri, that is still not enough to counter Khamenei.

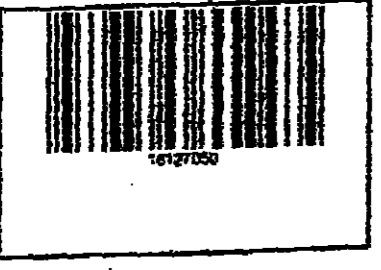
The election result did show that 19 years after the revolution, people's expectations that the Islamic regime would ease or solve their difficulties have not been fully realized, Menashri said. There's a growing realization that Iran needs to focus on domestic issues and that to achieve improvements for the common people, compromise should be made with dogma.

"The mood among the people in Iran, as expressed by Khatami, indicates they want change, and Khatami has not hesitated to talk about important topics which until now had been regarded as taboo. Only time will tell, however, how successful he will be," Menashri said.

### BACKGROUND

By DAVID RUDGE

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## NEWS

in brief

## 85 dead in UAE plane crash

A charter flight from Tajikistan crashed in the desert near an airport in the United Arab Emirates yesterday, killing 85 people. One person survived.

An explosion rocked the plane as it started to land, said Rustam Rustamov, the charter company's vice president said. But Emirates officials said they had no report of a blast.

The Tu-154 was en route from Tajikistan to Sharjah, the state-run Emirates News Agency said. AP

## Knesset panel hears briefing on Gil

The Knesset subcommittee on security affairs convened yesterday with the participation of Mossad head Danny Yatom. It reportedly heard a report from Yatom on the case of Yehuda Gil, the agent who provided false information relating to Syria. No details were available.

Gil's trial is to open tomorrow in Tel Aviv District Court, with court President Menahem Eban and his two deputies, Judges Uri Goren and Haim Porat, forming the panel. *Batsheva Tsur and Ilim*

## Yishai orders training courses at Gabor Sabrina

Labor Minister Elisha Yishai has issued orders to prevent the closure of five Gabor-Sabrina textile plants, which are to be turned into training centers offering courses for 1,050 workers for the next two months.

The firm, with plants in Kfar Sava, Netanya, Ma'alot, Yirka, and Kisra, has been in receivership. The workers are to receive unemployment benefits while taking the courses. Yishai adopted the recommendations of Yossi Farhi, director of the ministry's professional training branch. *Ilim*

## Nighttime air raid south of Beirut

IAF warplanes attacked a base of Ahmed Jibril's PFLP-General Command south of Beirut last night. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The pilots reported accurate hits and that all planes returned safely to their bases, the IDF spokesman said.

Meanwhile, the debriefing of troops involved in a clash with Hizbullah gunmen in Jabal Rafiah north of the security zone last Friday has revealed that at least three gunmen were killed and several were wounded. Originally it was reported that one gunman was killed. There were no reported IDF casualties. *David Rudge*

## Poll: Palestinian support for Hamas, peace up

A poll taken last month by the Jerusalem Media and Communications Center shows an increase in support among Palestinians for Hamas in recent months, but also a sharp rise in those supporting the peace process.

The survey, of 1,180 Palestinians showed that 17.3% support Hamas, compared to 11.3% in a similar poll taken in July, with a similar survey carried out in July that registered 11.3%.

The poll also showed, however, that 74.2% support the peace process, compared with 58.7% in July.

*Mohammed Najib and Margot Dudkevitch*

Our dear sister

## HELENA SEBBA

passed away 15.12.97 in London after a short illness.

Stanley & Arthur Broza

The local shiva will be held at the home of Arthur & Sharona Broza 1 Hazayit Street, Tel Aviv from 16.12.97

The Board of Directors and Staff of the Jerusalem International YMCA extend condolences to the Petrushka and Adv families on the death of

## SHABTAY PETRUSHKA

Long-time supporter and honorary member of the Jerusalem International YMCA

The Jerusalem Rotary Club

mourns the passing of its Past President, Paul Harris Fellow and Honorary Member

## SHABTAY PETRUSHKA

a Worthy of Jerusalem

and extends its condolences to the family.

Alex Falcon, President, Rotary Club, 1997-98

The unveiling of the tombstone of our beloved

## AMALIA LAPIDOT ז"ל

will take place on Wednesday, December 17, 1997, at the Givat Shaul cemetery, Jerusalem. We will meet at the entrance at 3:30 p.m.

Zvi Lapidot and family

On the shloshim after the passing of

## MINA BRIN

we will hold a memorial service and unveiling of the tombstone tomorrow, Wednesday, December 17, 1997 at 3 p.m. at Har Hamenuhot Cemetery at the Worthy of Jerusalem section.

We thank all those who expressed condolences.

The family

## IDF levels terrorists' homes

By AMEN O'SULLIVAN

Backed by more than 20 cement trucks and heavy tractors, the IDF clamped a curfew on the West Bank village of from Asira Shamaliya yesterday and demolished or sealed the homes of four suicide bombers who attacked Mahaneh Yehuda and Rehov Ben-Yehuda this summer.

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat condemned the demolitions as a "new violation" of the peace agreement.

Before dawn IDF soldiers entered the village north of Nablus, in Area B, where the IDF is still in charge of security although the Palestinians control civil affairs.

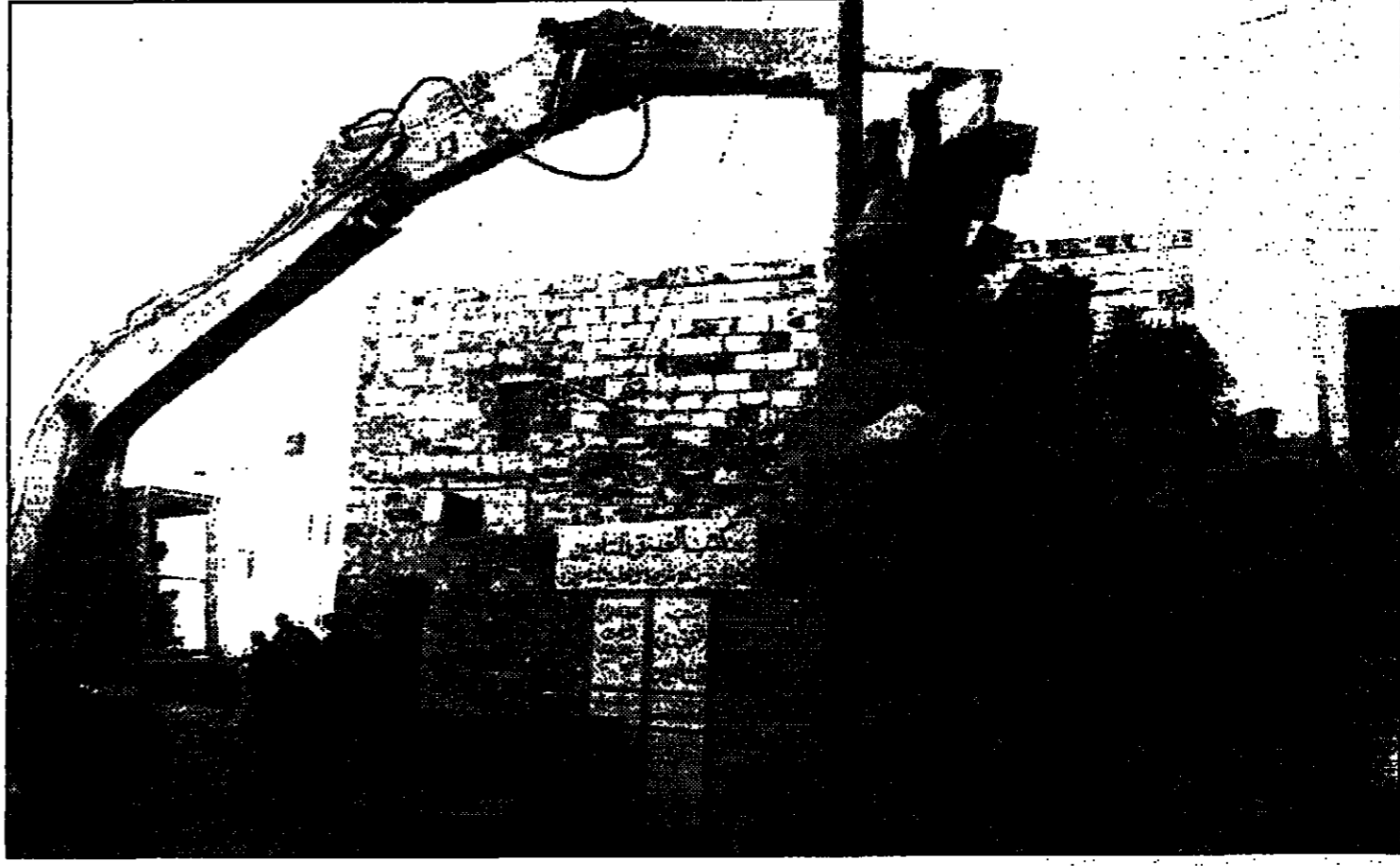
Palestinian police were told to stay put in their headquarters, which they did. The approaching forces were met by a lone firebomb, but otherwise the actions went without mishap, said Brig.-Gen. Moshe Zigdmon, chief staff officer of Central Command.

Using jackhammers, large backhoes chiseled away at the homes of two bombers who blew themselves up on July 30 in Mahaneh Yehuda, killing 16 people.

The army decided against destroying the homes of two other suicide bombers from the Ben-Yehuda attack of September 4, since the buildings are attached to other homes. These homes were sealed instead. The Ben-Yehuda bombings killed 5 people.

"It is pretty complicated since we don't want to harm the innocent. So it is a careful and surgical action. We are sealing the places we can't demolish so we don't cause additional damage," Zigdmon said.

One bomber had lived with his family on the first two floors of a three-story building. Dozens of



The IDF mobilized cranes in order to wreck the Asira Shamaliya home of a Palestinian suicide bomber who staged an attack in Jerusalem this summer.

barrels were rolled into the first and second floors and then filled with cement. The doors were welded shut. A second home was also sealed this way.

The cost of the entire action reportedly came to more than NIS 150,000.

The home of the third Ben-Yehuda bomber was not demolished since it is in Nablus, which is

under complete Palestinian control. The demolitions went ahead after the High Court rejected petitions by families of the suicide bombers against the action.

The curfew on Asira Shamaliya was lifted after the demolitions.

"The assessment in the military is that this action as we carry it out is still a deterrent, otherwise we wouldn't do it," said Lt.-Col.

Daniel Reisman, an assistant military advocate general for international law.

All, the brother of suicide bomber Bashar Zawalha, contended that "the army put in all those barrels to our home in a way that we must destroy it to rebuild it."

"Their aims are clear but we will return to our home one day," he added.

Mohammed Najib adds:

Hamas leader in Gaza, Abdul Aziz Rantisi, condemned the demolitions, saying: "There is no doubt that Israel's aggressive policy that started in 1948 continues today."

"Why didn't they demolish Yigal Amir's home?" Rantisi added, referring to Yitzhak Rabin's assassin.

## Landau takes on Mordechai at committee session

By LIAT COLLINS

Amid a tense atmosphere in the Knesset Foreign Affairs Committee, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai was strongly criticized by chairman Uzi Landau (Likud). He accused the government of not abiding by the principle of reciprocity and said the maps Mordechai had prepared did not meet the nation's security needs.

"When Israel speaks of reciprocity without being specific, it is in effect talking of carrying on with the process without demanding the Palestinians fulfill their part. We are again, as in the case of the Hebron [agreement], speaking of ostensible reciprocity not real reciprocity."

In such a case, Landau said, he would not be able to vote in favor of the government's proposals. He also said military personnel should not be involved in the political argument or used to draw

up maps. Mordechai replied that "the IDF is beyond the political arguments. For the last 18 months, I have made great efforts to keep the IDF out of political arguments."

Mordechai earlier told the MKs that the peace process is "at a crossroads" and that both sides should look forward, not back. According to an official briefing, Mordechai also said the security establishment has information that terror groups intend to carry out further attacks in the near future. Both Israel and the Palestinian Authority are acting to try to prevent this, he said.

Mordechai said two maps were presented the government leading up to the decision on the second further redeployment: one of "security interests" and the other of "national interests."

"Both maps are drawn up according to the perspective of the IDF and defense establishment,"

he said. They should be seen together, he added.

Mordechai told the MKs that since the Hebron agreement, the peace process has been frozen.

"The problem is how to get it back on track," he said. "It must be done together. There is a need for reciprocity. We will have to make concessions for the process to be carried out, but concessions we can live with."

"I do expect the Palestinians to fulfill the agreement. We will give our detailed demands to them and also to the US. Today we are not looking back but looking forward. The aim is to free the process from the stalemate."

The committee also discussed the cuts in the defense budget. Mordechai said he is concerned about the future threats presented by the cuts. He said the cuts stem from the fact that the Knesset's social caucus is stronger than its defense caucus.

## MORDECHAI

Continued from Page 1

Many of the settlers, he said, have lost their faith in the government, fearing it will succumb to US pressure.

"The map Mordechai presented relating to security interests is only slightly different from the one presented by the former government," he said.

Because it was prepared by the IDF, he said, it is more likely to receive widespread support.

"The IDF only related to security

issues - where it can mobilize troops and set up tanks - and totally ignored national issues such as water," he added.

Meanwhile, former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir attended a meeting with former chief rabbi Avraham Shapira, religious settlement leaders, and MKs from the National Religious Party and the Land of Israel Front.

Michael Kleiner (Likud-Gesher) said that at least 12 settlements are in danger of being cut off under the proposals. Shapira warned the forum that it should oppose any concrete decisions regarding with-

drawal until the Palestinians implement their part of the agreements.

Hanan Porat and Nissan Slomiansky (both NRP) argued they should act in stages, which would include no-confidence motions on various issues when the government brings the scope of the withdrawal for a vote. If the government acts to carry out the withdrawal, the NRP would seek to bring it down.

Kleiner said that regardless of what the NRP decides to do, he would introduce a no-confidence motion when the government decides to vote the withdrawal.

## CLINTON

Continued from Page 1

The State Department yesterday denied an article in Ha'aretz claiming that secret US-Iranian contacts are under way.

"The report is false," the department's deputy spokesman James Foley said. "And I don't have to elaborate on something that's not true."

"We both belong to the UN and would ordinarily find ourselves in the course of the work present in the same room," Foley said. "But this is a completely separate issue from the question."

Foley said that recent statements out of Teheran "indicate a desire to find common ground with the world community." But he called Khatami's rejection of the Middle East peace process and anti-Israel comments "troubling."

Foley added that the US, while welcoming the change in tone, continues to "look for changes in Iranian actions."

"We believed all along that the estrangement between the Iranian and the American people was unnatural," Foley said. "And I think if you look at an historical perspective... this is something that will end at some point. We ought to have a normal, civilized relation-

ship with the people of Iran." Netanyahu reserved judgment yesterday on the possibility that Iran may be liberalizing its attitude toward the US or Israel.

"Israel would welcome progress in this direction," he said, "but it is too early to conclude that there has been a change in Teheran's policy."

Netanyahu also alleged that Iran was continuing a buildup of conventional and unconventional weapons.

Apparently in the wake of Khatami's speech, the Foreign Ministry has launched intensive deliberations about Iran's diplomatic objectives and whether a rapprochement with the US was feasible, a senior official said.

Foreign Minister David Levy's political adviser Freddy Eitan contended that a genuine shift in Iranian policy would have to include termination of Teheran's support for Hizbullah and Hamas. Eitan favored Clinton's realistic attitude toward Iran, but dismissed the European Union's advocacy of holding any "critical dialogue" with Teheran.

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat was quoted in the Arabic daily Al-Hayat Al-Jadida as urging Iran "to play an active role in solving problems of concern to the entire Islamic world, among

them the Palestinian issue."

Channel 2 reported that Sephardi Chief Rabbi Elisha Bakshi-Doron, sent Iran's religious leadership a message through Palestinian intermediaries, suggesting a meeting between clerics.

Liav Collins adds: Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday that he didn't think that Khatami's remarks showed any change, but that he would "praise any moderate declaration and any declaration which could renew the contact with the western world and Israel."

## INDYK

Continued from Page 1

He added that "serious international pressure" must be exerted on Israel to achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

Bashara met Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam, and said he planned to meet with Shara today. It was not clear whether he is carrying any message from Israel.

Bashara also met Palestinian leaders, including George Habash, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

## NEWSLINE

To what extent should the IDF be involved in the decision-making process?

First of all the army should not be involved in politics. Considering the fact that the subject under discussion today, over what parts and pieces should or should not be turned over to Mr. Arafat, is in many ways a political issue, every effort should be made to keep the IDF out of it.

It's impossible, however, to keep the army out of it completely because there are important security considerations that must be taken into account. Nevertheless, I think it would have been preferable if the army had been asked specific questions about specific areas, rather than being asked to produce a map. If it was asked to produce a map, I think this was a mistake.

Do you think it likely that Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai would have put pressure on the defense establishment to produce a map which fits his opinion, as alleged by Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee chairman Uzi Landau?

I have not been privy to the consultations. I certainly hope that this is not the case and, in my opinion, I don't think it is... It's hard for me to believe that the present defense minister, Yitzhak Mordechai, would do that.

IDF commanders are asked for opinions and recommendations on specific security issues to help the political hierarchy make decisions which the army then has to implement. Has anything changed?

A: No. That's the way it is. The army accepts the verdict given by the political establishment. It should be noted that the army itself is not a single homogeneous unit... In many cases in which I have been involved, a number of generals would appear before the ministers and come up with different suggestions.

Is the government, as some critics suggest, acting hastily in trying to formulate and agree on the lines and scope of the proposed second-stage redeployment?

Firstly, I cannot urge strongly enough the necessity for not acting with haste. We are at a point... that is of crucial importance to Israel's security and future. Decisions will be taken that will be irreversible and the people involved in making these decisions have to think very carefully. Two significant mistakes have already been made in the haste to arrive at some kind of an agreement.

The turning over of Jericho and the surrounding area to the Palestinian Authority punched a big hole in what everybody considered was essential as a security border for Israel, namely the Jordan Valley. The second mistake was made in Hebron, a city of great historic and religious importance to the Jewish people.

Critics maintain that the government's apparent haste is more to please the Americans rather than due to a firm commitment to the peace process. Is this the case in your opinion?

The present situation where it seems the government feels obliged to show the American administration what it is they intend to propose and receive America's approval... is unprecedented in Israel's history. *David Rudge*

## PULLBACK

Continued from Page 1

Netanyahu replied that Israel proposes that the countdown start immediately after the decision to carry out the further redeployment is reached. At the end of the five-month period, Israel will weigh up whether the Palestinians - in all areas of activity - had stood up to the test of the agreement and "it will be able to reach conclusions."

David Harris adds: Netanyahu will agree to a withdrawal from a further 10.5% of Judea and Samaria, in line with US demands, Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak claimed yesterday.

He told the party's Knesset faction the principal areas of withdrawal will be centered on Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah, and the Hebron Hills. The final status talks will not be completed on time, he added. Netanyahu took seven months over Hebron - the first redeployment, and has so far taken 18 months on the Dahmaniya airport talks, which are still not completed.

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# Farrakhan cancels Temple Mount visit

By ELLI WOHLGELERNTER and news agencies

The much-anticipated visit by Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan to the Temple Mount was abruptly canceled yesterday when he learned that Jewish groups planned to protest his presence at the site.

"If anything should happen to me in this land it could not bring good results in black-Jewish relations in the United States, so in the interest of peace I think it is best that I leave," he told reporters in Ramallah.

Unconfirmed reports said Farrakhan, who is known for his vitriolic antisemitic remarks, received death threats.

Two right-wing groups, Hai Vekayam and Victims of Arab Terror, petitioned the High Court

of Justice yesterday morning to keep Farrakhan out of Jerusalem. But one hour before the court was to begin its hearing, Farrakhan announced that he would not visit the capital, and the court canceled the hearing.

"I understand... that there are those who would honor their right to demonstrate and to obstruct my going in to pray," Farrakhan said to reporters, before boarding a bus that took him to the Allenby Bridge to cross into Jordan. "We don't get a favorable sign from the government that I am welcome, and no one pledged security for us."

Hai Vekayam leader Yehuda Etzion, who denied threatening Farrakhan, said he expected the black leader to make another attempt to visit the capital next month, and that Hai Vekayam would go ahead with its High

Court petition.

Police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said he had heard rumors that another militant group, the Ideological Front, had threatened Farrakhan to keep him from coming to Israel.

Ben-Ruby said that there had been no police contact with Farrakhan, but that "we intended to guard him with a police force. This was our plan."

Another right-wing organization, Jerusalem Is Ours, requested a permit from police to demonstrate against Farrakhan near the Western Wall.

"We didn't threaten, but we told police that we would not let him go up to the Temple Mount," said Danny Danon, head of the group. "Everyone says he shouldn't come, but nobody does anything about it."

"I can understand if there is anger in some of the Israeli citizens because of what they have heard and read about me," Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan said yesterday.

"I can assure you that if I was antisemitic and hated the Jewish people, then this is the last place I would want to be."

That would seem to make sense, on the face of it, but such is the guile of Farrakhan that he can fool you with his mere presence - or, as was the case yesterday, his mere absence.

Twenty-four hours after arriving in Palestinian-controlled Area A, Louis Farrakhan was gone, his visit to the Temple Mount canceled, his lightening visit over. The reason, Farrakhan said, was that he was concerned for his safety, that he was not given assurances about his protection.

"The reason he said that he left - that Israel couldn't provide for his safety - is poppycock," said Abraham Foxman, director of the

Anti-Defamation League. "He said he was coming in January, and then he snuck in. The responsibility is his for not coming with proper notice. He broke trust with the Israeli government, and it doesn't owe him any courtesy in the future."

Foxman and many others believe yesterday's visit was not a one-time trip, but just a dry run for a second attempt next month.

While negotiations between Farrakhan's people and the government had been ongoing over how he would be greeted when he arrived here, Farrakhan wanted to know where he really stood. So he just showed up. Round one, Farrakhan.

"There's no doubt about it, whatever our criticism of Louis Farrakhan, we have to say that he is an extremely clever person, and not an easy adversary, to say the least," said Rabbi Marvin Heir,

dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

"If I was antisemitic..." said Farrakhan, as if his 25-year history of well-documented quotes can lead to any other conclusion.

"What the Israelis don't know is who this man is, what he really represents," said Foxman. "He's a racist, a bigot, and an antisemite, who has embraced in the past several years all the dictators and rejectionist countries of the Third World."

"He is sinister, cynical, and fuels all the classical canards of antisemitism."

The danger, said Heir, is the influence he wields on the black community, which cannot distinguish between his positive message of self-reliance and his racism.

"They don't realize there were good things in a lot of demagogues in history, even Adolf

Hitler, who built the Volkswagen and the autobahn. But we're not going to run a conference on the good things of Adolf Hitler, because they were by far outweighed by the bad things; and we feel that Louis Farrakhan has been a demagogue, he's been irresponsible in addressing Jewish concerns, he's been a hater toward Jews, and we're not prepared to overlook that."

Foxman, who has been in the forefront in the fight against Farrakhan and been personally attacked by the black leader, said he isn't looking for him to change his tune.

"I don't need an apology from him. I need him to just stop," Foxman said. "Stop selling *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, stop peddling Martin Luther's antisemitic writings from 500 years ago. And stop pinning on Jews the mother of all evils - that we as Jews are responsible for all that is wrong in the black community, from then until now."

# Round one, Farrakhan

## IN CONTEXT

By ELLI WOHLGELERNTER

# Lieberman to run for World Likud head

By NICHAL YUDELMAN

Avigdor Lieberman, the former director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, announced yesterday he would contend for the chairmanship of the World Likud Convention and not that of the Jewish Agency.

Lieberman denied he was running for the post to take revenge against WLC chairman Ronni Milo, who is one of Prime Minister

Binyamin Netanyahu's most prominent opponents in the Likud.

He said he respects Milo, whom he regards as "one of the most intelligent and sophisticated politicians we have... it's an honor to run against him."

He said he is interested in the post because "we have lost a great deal due to the neglect of the Likud's contacts in the world and especially in the United States."

Asked about the list of delegates

to the WLC, which he allegedly manipulated so that it gave him a majority in the coming elections, Lieberman said, "I do not attribute any importance to one list or another. It's a marginal issue. I have... a lot to offer, and I feel sure of being elected by any list."

Lieberman said he does not intend to run for the position of Jewish Agency chairman, adding he considers Sallai Meridor the prime minister's candidate.

# NRP: We support Hammer

By LIAT COLLINS

The National Religious Party faction meeting yesterday dwelt on the reports that attempts are being made to oust Education Minister Zevulun Hammer as NRP leader while he is hospitalized. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy yesterday visited Hammer in hospital.

NRP whip Hanan Porat opened the meeting by expressing his

"disgust" with the reports that Levy would replace Hammer as education minister and Knesset Law Committee Chairman Shaul Yahalom would replace Levy as transport minister. should Hammer resign.

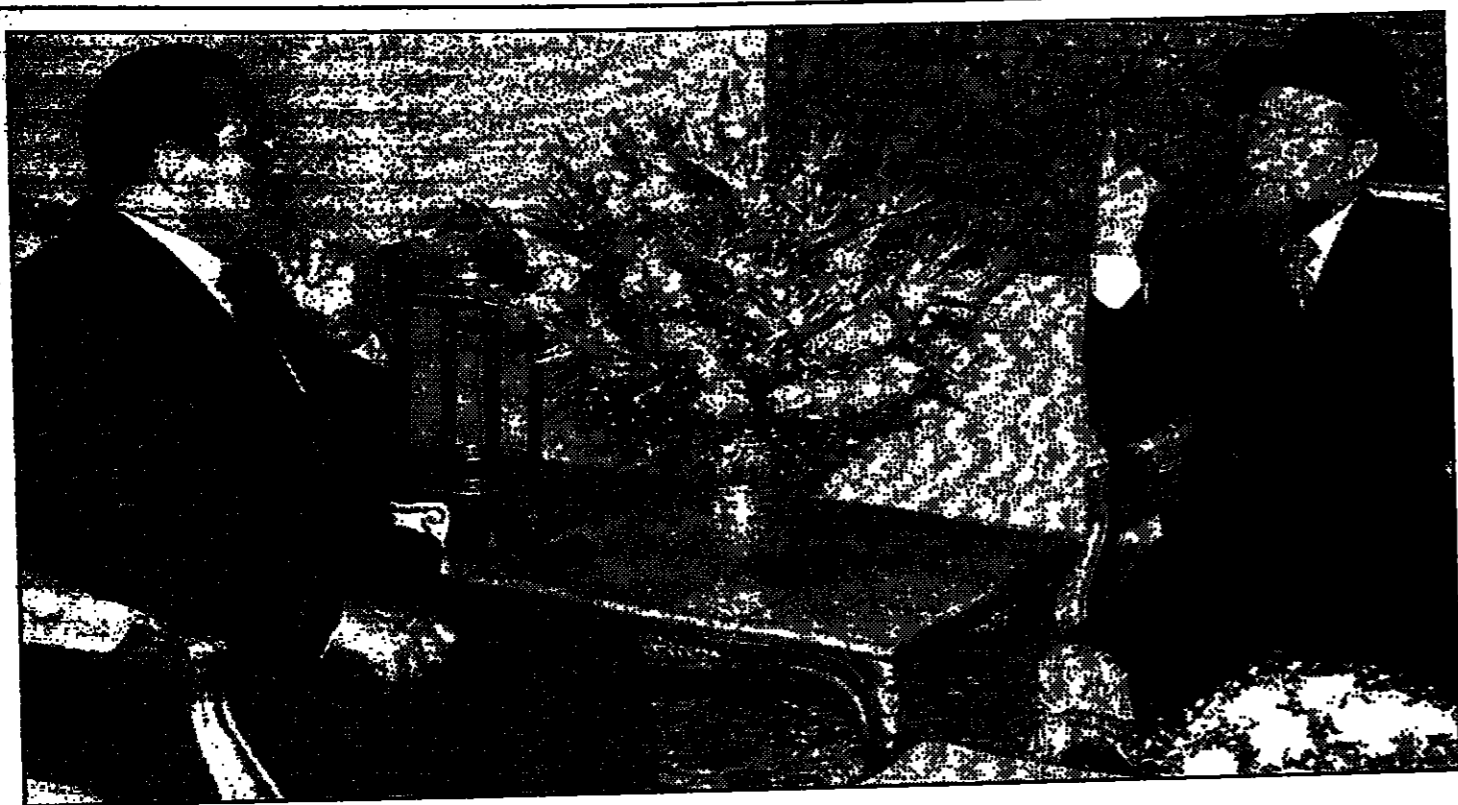
MK Nissan Slomiansky he had no knowledge of such moves but he believed the press had not simply invented the story.

Several NRP members pointed a finger at Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Yigal Bibi as the person

possibly behind the attempt to oust Hammer.

"I am not holding any meetings or conventions," said Bibi in response. "Hammer is our minister and Hammer is our party leader and we all pray for his recovery. Nobody is setting their sights on his job. We all have our own positions and are all happy in them."

The faction announced it stood behind Hammer and hoped for his speedy recovery.



### Making a point

Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau gestures during his meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak yesterday. For peace to be realized, spiritual leaders must 'speak about peace and condemn terror and violence,' Lau told his host. (Reuters)

## HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARON

### A tale of two maps

At his meeting with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is to present his second redeployment plan, which is "currently covered with a thick layer of fog," *Ma'ariv's* Yusef Lapid writes. He adds that based on the maps Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon suggested, "no agreement... would stand a chance."

In his article "Bibi's search for an alibi," *Ha'aretz's* Uzi Ben-Zion claims that government discussions regarding "interest maps," allegedly focusing on the security needs as the basis for planning the redeployments, are no more than "an alibi to provide a reason for the government's refusal to touch settlements or redeploy." He adds that if the government does not relocate the settlements, it may be difficult for the IDF to protect them and it is likely that the final-status negotiations will fail.

### A turn to the West

Iranian President Mohammed Khatami's recent and unprecedented statement at a press conference, conveying his interest in opening a dialogue with the American people, was received both with optimism and suspicion by the media.

"Khatami would have liked to start a revolution in the ties between his country and the external world, but his hands are tied," *Ma'ariv's* Oded Granot writes, referring to the influence of Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who holds the opposite opinions.

According to *Yedioth's* Smadar Perry, Israel believes that Teheran's motive is to "remove obstacles to Iranian arms purchases, until it completes its conventional and unconventional armament."

Guy Bechor of *Ha'aretz* writes that according to the US and Israel, Iran's moderation is the result of

pressure on Iran which created a split between the Iranian people and the leadership. This pressure should continue, he adds, "if Iran is to open up to the world."

### Sara uncensored

An abundance of commentary filled the Hebrew press following *Yedioth Aharonot's* revealing weekend article concerning the prime minister's wife, Sara

Netanyahu. "There is a reasonable fear that Israel's prime minister, the man who is considered - at least in his own eyes - to be a great expert in terrorism, is held hostage by his own wife," *Ma'ariv's* Amnon Dankner writes.

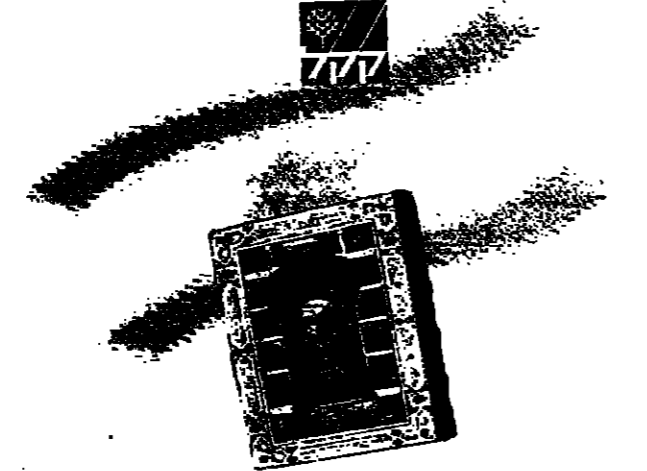
He adds that although this is not of public interest it "is a personal tragedy that has the dangerous potential of becoming a national tragedy... the danger lies in the

fact that it is unthinkable that an Israeli prime minister would be subjected to daily extortion."

Amnon Shomron, also writing in *Ma'ariv*, claims that this is yet another attempt to get rid of Netanyahu.

"This time, Netanyahu has to face the mounting gossip and eliminate it or else... it will haunt him and terminate him," he writes, adding that Netanyahu must sue *Yedioth*.

KEREN KAYEMETH LEISRAEL JEWISH NATIONAL FUND



### INTERNATIONAL COVER DESIGN CONTEST FOR THE GOLDEN BOOK IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

KKL-JNF is pleased to announce an international contest for the artistic cover design of the new Golden Book volume devoted to the 50th anniversary of the State of Israel. KKL-JNF's Golden Book, the first volume of which was published in 1902, is one of several Honor Books through which the Fund expresses its appreciation to friends and supporters for their contribution to its wide-ranging work. Some 650,000 individuals, organizations and institutions from all over the world have been inscribed in the 24 Golden Book volumes published to date. Together, they constitute an honors roll of the Jewish People, encapsulating in its pages historic national events of the 20th century, as well as family and personal occasions.

### Contest Conditions:

The Golden Book is 70 cm. high and 50 cm. wide. Design proposals should be submitted on 35x25-cm. sheets. Any material may be used.

The designs are to be enclosed in a double envelope. The outer envelope should clearly show the contestant's full name, address and telephone number (Israeli contestants should also give their I.D. number), as well as a distinctive identifying mark of the contestant's choice. This mark - and it alone - should appear on the inner envelope. Both envelopes should be inserted into a third and mailed to: Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael, Golden Book Cover Design Contest, P.O. Box 283, Jerusalem 91002, Israel. Proposals should be carefully packaged to ensure their safe delivery. KKL-JNF is not responsible for damage or loss.

Entries must arrive no later than Tu B'Shvat 1998 - February 11, 1998.

A public panel, headed by the Chairman of the Information Committee of the KKL-JNF Board of Directors will judge the entries and choose the 3 prize-winning designs: First Prize: NIS 35,000 Second Prize: NIS 17,500 Third Prize: NIS 10,500 All the entries will be displayed at a special exhibition for Israel's 50th anniversary.

Winners from abroad will be invited to spend a week in Israel, to coincide with the exhibition, as guests of KKL-JNF, which will cover the full costs of a return flight and accommodation in Israel.

For further information, please contact: Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael, Information Division, P.O. Box 283, Jerusalem 91002

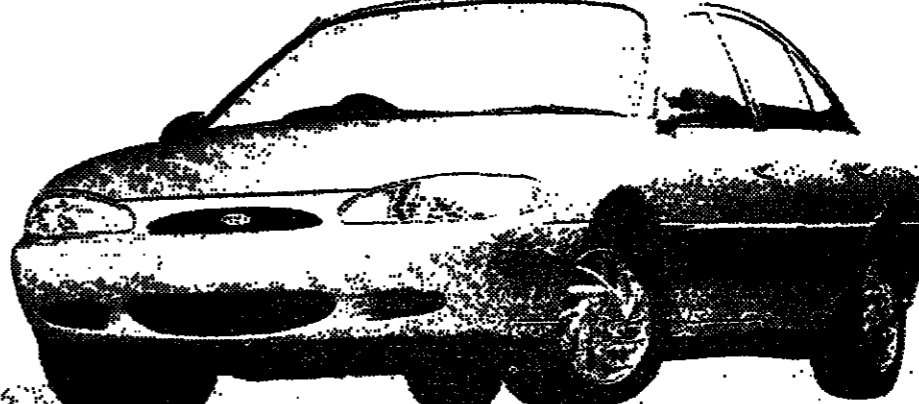
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# 13,000 Labor objections to budget Neeman reaches accord on budget with coalition MKs

By DAVID HARRIS

Chances of winning approval for the 1998 state budget in the key Knesset Finance committee increased considerably yesterday, when Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman reached an understanding with coalition MKs.

However, Labor whip Ra'an Cohen yesterday urged party colleagues to do their utmost to prevent passage of the budget on December 31. Labor has prepared more than 13,000 alternative proposals, which it will attempt to introduce when the budget debate begins in the plenum next week.

"Organizing properly could well result in real changes in the budget," Cohen said at a faction meeting.

The principal objections are

over allocations for child benefits, education, pensions, communications and defense. To ensure a united approach ahead of the third reading, Labor has set up eight teams of MKs, each responsible for a section of budget proposals.

"The budget arrangements bill, now called 'the increasing growth in the economy law' should be renamed 'the increasing inequality law,'" suggested Labor Chairman Ehud Barak. He said that equal medical treatment for the rich and poor would become a thing of the past "in a few years if this is implemented."

Former finance minister Avraham Shohat accused the government of proposing a political budget with hundreds of millions of shekels destined for the territories and the haredim.

Objecting to the government's tight fiscal rein, Shohat said that while Labor does not want to see a large government deficit, the figure could be stretched to 2.6 percent of the gross domestic product, rather than the proposed 2.4%.

Neeman met yesterday with coalition members of Finance Committee to try and persuade them to back the budget, which includes a spending cut of NIS 2.3 billion.

Neeman said he would welcome any alternative suggestions within the proposed sum as long as they would not restrict economic growth, according to his spokeswoman, Estie Applebaum.

Applebaum denied that Neeman made any concessions, but coalition MKs lead by Michael Kleiner

(Geshet), who chairs the coalition in the committee, said they made significant progress in realizing their budget demands. Kleiner said their only outstanding difference with the budget proposal was a suggested NIS 500 million cut in child benefits.

"Without the removal of the child benefits hurdle there will be no majority, I'll keep on explaining to the Treasury until they understand it," Kleiner said.

"The basket of health services remains intact," said Kleiner. "The new law will say the basket can only be increased and it will be illegal to reduce it."

He said this meant that medicines could not be omitted from the service basket unless they were replaced by more advanced versions.

# No-confidence motions on health system fail

By LIAT COLLINS

The unhealthy state of the health system was raised yesterday in two no-confidence motions heard in the Knesset plenum. The motions, presented by Labor together with Hadash and Meretz, failed in a vote of 40 to 44 with two abstentions (by the Moledet MKs).

The discussion was fairly calm and the plenum largely deserted, probably because it took place after the government had agreed to transfer NIS 150 million for the treatment of cancer and AIDS sufferers.

MK Haim Ramon (Labor), who was the driving force behind the

national health law, accused Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman of "showing he has not only no clue about the health system in Israel, but also no idea about the health services in any normal country."

Hadash MK Tamar Gozansky claimed that the government is deliberately refusing to update the health basket and employers' health tax and to cover the difference between the health funds' incomes and expenditures.

"The result of the destructive reform the government is trying to bring about in the health establishment will be to raise the payments the rest of the public has to make while giving them inferior health

services," she said.

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza responded that he had not taken the health portfolio to harm the patients. He said Neeman is trying to amend the arrangements bill to preserve the equality of the health basket. He said the prices of some medicines will be significantly cheaper from next month because he had permitted the import of the drugs.

Tsomet whip Eliezer Zandberg later said he had absented himself from the vote to protest Tsomet's treatment by the Likud. He is complaining that the Likud will not let him raise his bill to draft yeshiva students and other bills which Tsomet supports.

# Matza plans to revamp malpractice reviews

By JUDY SEGEL

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza will completely revamp the existing system of investigating complaints against doctors' alleged malpractice, which encourages personal and political pressures and takes years to resolve cases, he told *The Jerusalem Post* in an interview yesterday.

After changes are made in the Physicians' Law during the next six months, the old system will be replaced by a special complaints committee of paid senior doctors and a lawyer who will conduct hearings and decide whether violators should be punished. Appeals would be handled by the courts.

Matza said the current system is fraught with problems. Senior physicians called in for expert testimony cause scheduling difficulties because they are so busy and

poorly compensated, and by the time evidence is collected, individuals involved may be dead or have forgotten details.

Instead, veteran doctors close to retirement would be hired, along with an experienced lawyer, to hear the cases and reach a verdict, Matza said.

Meanwhile, Matza yesterday received the recommendations of a committee appointed to investigate complaints filed more than five years ago against Dr. Yair Melimovka. Matza decided immediately to suspend the doctor's license for six months, and is considering the option of cancelling it permanently.

The first case involved R.A., a 26-year-old man who in March 1985 went to Melimovka to have a growth removed from his back. The doctor did so, and threw it away, without sending it for a histo-pathology exam to see if it

was cancerous. Two years later, R.A. died of malignant melanoma.

In 1988, a patient named M.Z. went to Melimovka with a growth on his right arm. The doctor did not document details and discarded the tissue without having it examined. This patient died of cancer, too.

Melimovka treated two other patients who had vascular disease; he gave them the drug EDTA, even though it had not been approved by the ministry. One of the patients died and the second suffered paralysis.

In the final case, a woman came to Melimovka in 1992 with stomach pains and fever; he sent her for X-rays.

Two days later, without examining her again, he gave her vitamin C and cortisone, but soon after, she was diagnosed elsewhere with an infected appendix.

# Kahalani unveils plan to reduce car theft

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

A comprehensive plan to crack down on car theft was presented yesterday by Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani and the police.

Kahalani revealed that so far this year, there had been a 25 percent rise in the number of car thefts, totaling 43,371, causing NIS 1.5 billion in damage to the economy.

In 1996, 34,600 car thefts were reported.

The operation started at the beginning of the month. Since it began, Kahalani stressed, there has been an 11% decrease in the number of thefts reported, compared to the same period in 1996.

According to police estimates, 60% of stolen cars are transferred to the autonomous areas, where they are stripped.

Roadblocks have been set up in areas in Judea and Samaria that connect with Area A, to prevent cars from reaching the autonomous areas, Kahalani said. There are also plans to drive one-meter-high stakes into the ground along an 80-kilometer stretch of the Green Line, which he said will prevent thieves from entering the territories by driving off-road.

Since the beginning of the month, 15,000 soldiers from crack units have been recruited to work alongside policemen,



Police Insp.-Gen Assaf Hefetz (left), Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani, Internal Security Ministry Director-General Emil Palant, and incoming inspector-general Yehuda Wilk, unveil a new anti-car theft program yesterday.

according to the head of the operation, Cmdr. Yehuda Behar. Police will demand an addition of 250

policemen and four Border Police companies, said Kahalani. He estimated costs as NIS 94 million for

the first year, NIS 84m. for the second year, and NIS 73m. for the third year.

# Lieberman lends support to Sara Netanyahu

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Avigdor Lieberman, former director-general of the prime minister's office, defended Sara Netanyahu's role yesterday by saying that she worked mainly from her home and not from the bureau as reports have charged.

In an interview with Channel 1's *Erev Hadash* program, Lieberman called the expose on Mrs. Netanyahu in newspapers and television an "unprecedented invasion of privacy, which is unfair and unjust."

While he did not directly answer a question about whether Mrs. Netanyahu had been assigned an office with secretaries, as reports have alleged, Lieberman added: "I know Sara and [Prime Minister] Binyamin Netanyahu for many years and there is no connection between what was presented and reality. She sat and worked in the prime minister's

residence. There were occasions in which she received assistance from the prime minister's office and bureau, when she participated in events and represented the government."

According to a public opinion poll conducted by Shvakim-Panorama for Israel Radio, 92% of the public read or heard the stories about Mrs. Netanyahu.

In response to the question: "Do you personally believe or disbelieve what was written or reported about the behavior of Sara Netanyahu?" 36.6% said they believed most or everything, while 35.6% said they believed only some reports, and 27.8% said that they did not believe any.

Asked about the effect of Mrs. Netanyahu's reported conduct on her husband's functioning as prime minister, 60.1% replied that her behavior had a bad influence, 0.9% thought it had a positive effect on his conduct and 39% believed that it had no influence over the prime minister.

*Batsheva Tsur adds:*  
MK Yossi Katz (Labor), Chairman of the Knesset's State Control Committee asked Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein yesterday to formulate guidelines for public duties that a prime minister's spouse should perform.

# Clalit: Raise cigarette tax, not health fees

By JUDY SEGEL

Kupat Holim Clalit has proposed an alternate plan to the Treasury's for reducing the deficit in the health system: instead of the health funds charging the average family NIS 1,000 a year in extra fees, the shortfall could be cut with a hike in the tobacco tax, reform in the pharmaceutical market and efficiency measures in the health funds and hospitals.

Clalit director-general Dr. Yitzhak Peterburg, who presented his plan at a press conference yesterday, stressed that his ideas were a "comprehensive, applicable program aimed at truly dealing with the factors that caused the serious financial crisis of the health system."

It is based on recovery efforts by the insurers, hospitals and the government without forcing residents to finance the deficit by charging them extra health fees, Peterburg said.

Peterburg called on the health and finance ministers to withdraw immediately the proposals that make up part of the arrangements bill and would in effect abolish the National Health Insurance Law.

## Where to eat in Israel

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- ATLANTIS FISH & SEA FOOD RESTAURANT** - Three Course Business Lunch for only NIS 59 (incl. one glass of wine). Open daily noon-1 a.m. Mercuzim Building, 32 Maskit St. Tel. 09-856 8999.
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- THE 7TH PLACE** - Popular Jerusalem dining spot, authentic Southern Indian and dairy cuisine. Spacious, bright and friendly. Live show every night. K kosher. 37 Hillel St. (Bet Agon - the journalists center). Tel. 02-625 4495.
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# Teachers start sanctions today

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

No trips or cultural events will be held outside the nation's schools beginning today, as the Histadrut Teachers Union launches sanctions, in support of the Secondary School Teachers Association's negotiations regarding principals' salaries and payment for school trips.

However, army preparatory courses for 12th-graders will continue to meet.

Teachers will also stop holding

meetings and parent meetings that take place after school hours, and report cards will not be prepared or distributed.

All activities related to the long school day will also be halted, until an agreement is signed between the union and the Education Ministry regarding arrangements for its implementation.

"The Education and Finance ministries are adopting a policy of intentional delay regarding the signing of salary agreements with the principals and remuneration

for teaching staff for hours worked outside the schools," union secretary-general Avraham Ben-Shabbat said.

"If the ministries would apply the same energy they are showing in delaying the negotiations towards finding a solution, the union would not have had to launch sanctions. If the Education and Finance ministries don't change their approach, we will step up the sanctions and strike the education system."

Meanwhile, the Secondary

School Teachers Association is threatening to renew its sanctions and again not accompany school trips or after-school cultural programs, beginning tomorrow. The association had given the Finance Ministry a few days to come up with a new proposal for paying teachers for time spent accompanying trips after school hours, but when this was not forthcoming announced plans to renew the sanctions, which have virtually done away with school trips this year.

Education Ministry Director-

General Benzion Dell said the ministry supports the teachers' demand to negotiate wages, but that until negotiations with the Finance Ministry are exhausted, the sanctions should not be renewed, particularly when so many activities are planned for next week.

He added that only the Finance Ministry could decide wage matters, and said he had asked Finance Ministry officials to intensify the negotiations with the teachers.

## NEWS

in brief

### TV Hanukka special featuring the late Elimelech

ETV has announced an agreement with family of the late Anat Elimelech to permit the showing on ETV2 of the "Voices and Sounds" junior song competition finals. The contest was recorded about a month ago at the Noga Theater in Jaffa. Twelve finalists on the program were chosen from among 500 entries, and the winning song, "Like an Animated Film," was composed and performed by Shai (17) and Liron (15) Lev, brothers from Petah Tikva. The show will be on at 1 p.m. on December 25. Elimelech died in an apparent murder-suicide on December 2 in which hairdresser David Afuta also perished.

Helen Kaye

### Emissaries to hold reunion

Thousands of Israeli government emissaries who served in the Diaspora over the years will gather together tonight for an unusual reunion at the International Conference Center. The emissaries will include those involved in bringing Jews to Israel from communities in distress, in ongoing educational programs for Diaspora Jewry, and those who led Zionist youth movements and helped raise funds for the development of the state.

The program will include a tribute to those emissaries who died while fulfilling their tasks, and the awarding of the Emissary's Award to the participants.

Aryeh Dean Cohen

### Mediterranean landscaping symposium in capital

A five-day international symposium on Mediterranean landscape design is taking place at the Jerusalem Theater this week. Among the notable participants are Prof. James Ackerman of Harvard; Prof. Denis Bildeau of Montreal U.; Prof. Santiago Calatrava of Barcelona; Prof. Giancarlo de Carlo of Milan; Prof. Jannis Kounellis of Düsseldorf; Michel de Vigne, Paris; Liane Lefavre, Delft; Alexandre Chemetoff, Paris; Enric Miralles, Barcelona; Luca Molinari, Delft and Milan; Prof. Attilio Petruccioli, Harvard and MIT; and Prof. Alexander Tzonis, Delft. Israeli participants include Shlomo Aaronson, Dani Karavan, Michael Levin, Gabriel Kertesz, Arie Rahamimoff, Lipa Yahalom and Yigal Zalmona.

Admission to events, being held at the Van Leer Institute, is by ticket only.

Meir Ronnen

### MKs: Fund for after-school programs won't close

The Knesset Education Committee yesterday protested reported Education Ministry plans to cut the budget of the Kavev Fund, which provides after-school programs in outlying settlements and development towns. The fund, which has existed for seven years and was initiated by Charles Broffman, gets NIS 84 million from the ministry, NIS 75m. from the local authorities and parents, and another NIS 6m. in administrative costs from the Broffman family. The ministry reportedly plans to cut its part from NIS 84m. to NIS 40m.

Aryeh Dean Cohen

### German, Israeli scientists discuss gene therapy

Forty-five leading German and Israeli physicians and scientists in gene therapy have cloistered themselves at a Dead Sea Hotel this week to discuss the latest developments in the field and discuss ways to cooperate on research projects. The conference was organized by the German-Israeli Foundation for Scientific Research and Development (GIF) founded 10 years ago. Dr. Amnon Barak, director of GIF, said he hopes the next round of requests for foundation grants will include many proposals in gene therapy research. GIF allocates some DM 20 million (NIS 45 million) to German and Israeli research projects each year.

Judy Segal

### Pupils to be encouraged to complete matric

In a new Education Ministry campaign, local authority heads, their education department chiefs and school principals are to actively encourage pupils who may be an exam or two shy of a full matriculation certificate to complete the necessary exams.

Only the full matriculation certificate allows for acceptance to an institution of higher education. The campaign aims to help 15,000 pupils complete whatever exams they still lack to obtain the certificate.

Aryeh Dean Cohen

### Edelstein, Russian officials sign agreement

Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein yesterday signed an agreement on the exchange of immigration information and the development of joint programs with Russian Immigration Minister Tatiana Regent.

Thousands of immigrants from the former Soviet republics arrive in Russia every month, and the Russian authorities want to use Israeli expertise to deal with the problem, mainly regarding housing, employment, and job retraining.

The agreement is also expected to improve computer communications regarding immigration, cutting down on the number of forgeries and other scams.

Aryeh Dean Cohen



Ilan Abu receives his good deed prize from President Ezer and Reuma Weizman yesterday. (Beit Shimon)

## Weizman awards good deed prizes

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Orna Shimoni, of Kibbutz Ashdot Ya'acov-Meuhad, was one of the first people to arrive on the scene when a Jordanian soldier opened fire at a group of Beit Shemesh schoolgirls visiting nearby Mahanayim on March 13 and killed seven of them.

Shimoni, a nurse, tended the wounded and helped with the evacuation.

The event left an indelible mark on her and she decided to commemorate the girls' memory by building a garden of flowers at the "Peace Island" site. She collected seeds and bulbs and planted the names of the victims in flowers.

Every day after work, Shimoni, a widow and mother of four, would go to tend the flowers. "I felt it was a 'mitzva,'" she said yesterday. A special bond developed between the kibbutznik and the families from Beit Shemesh.

But in September, six months after the traumatic event, Shimoni was to experience a horrifying tragedy of her own:

Her son Eyal, an officer in the Armored Corps, was killed on active duty in Lebanon.

Shimoni did not give up the garden.

In addition to tending Eyal's grave, she continues to go daily to care for the blossoms at Mahanayim. "I mourn Eyal at his grave and the girls at the island," she said yesterday.

Yesterday President Ezer Weizman and his wife Reuma awarded the Prize for a Good Deed to Shimoni.

The brainchild of Reuma Weizman, the NIS 5,000 prize was awarded for the first time to a dozen recipients - individuals and groups. Some announced on the spot they were contributing it to a further worthy cause.

"The prizes were born out of another good deed," Reuma Weizman told the gathering. "The money came from bequests from good Jews the world over who wished to do something for the citizens of Israel." She said that the prize was intended for a one-time voluntary act involving personal sacrifice.

Ilan Abu, a senior at a Sderot

high school, was another recipient.

Ilan was sitting in class when he smelled smoke. Next to the school, he noticed two workers trapped in a burning hut, apparently set alight by a cigarette. The workers were having difficulty breathing.

Without hesitation, Ilan broke the window with his hand and let in fresh air. Although he was injured, he did not wait for the fire engine and rushed in to help the two.

Another recipient was fireman Moshe Ganan, who volunteered to go, without oxygen, down a 10-meter deep shaft where a toddler had fallen.

Ganan was lowered, head first, into the cavity and spent 20 minutes rescuing the two-year-old, who came up almost unscathed.

Other winners were municipal workers from the Druse village of Horfish, who worked round the clock to build a wall to prevent rocks from falling onto a highway; Charlie Abutbul, a father of nine who returned jewels and savings to a newly-wed couple who had lost them; the

"cycle group" of Kibbutz Ma'abarot, which built 32 bikes for immigrant children living at a caravan site; fireman Kobi Erez and Ya'acov Nehama, who, on a busmen's holiday, rescued a mother and two children from a burning apartment in Ma'aleh Adumim.

Others were a volunteer group from Netanya, which took in more than 2,000 people evacuated from the North during Operation Grapes of Wrath; a class from a Kfar Sava high school that adopted a family whose son had been physically abused by schoolmates; Yossi Duck, of Kiryat Bialik, who adopted a homeless Russian immigrant couple; Yifrah Shimoni, a worker for the Ashkelon Municipality, who cared for a woman suffering from mental illness whose home was broken into; and Baruch Mashkovsky, who organizes an annual seder for 100 needy elderly Jerusalemites.

"The recipients come from all walks of life and are an example to the entire nation," Weizman said.

## MKs: Cancel jubilee events

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Members of the Knesset State Control Committee yesterday called for the cancellation of the jubilee celebrations and the use of the millions of shekels "for better purposes."

"Let's call off the celebrations; the nation is not happy," said David Tal (Shas). "We can take the NIS 118 million allocated for the events and use it to buy medications for the needy."

"We have seen nothing but disorder, lack of efficiency, and strange ideas. Whatever this government touches goes wrong," said Ra'anana Cohen (Labor). "We'll end up with a commission of inquiry into the failure of the celebrations."

"This is a punishment to the nation," concurred Ran Cohen (Meretz). "In 13 months, the events committee has not succeeded in getting its show on the road. The jubilee is supposed to be the high point and to show 50 years of achievements. The worst of it is that they want to make it a celebration for prisoners and to set them free and punish their victims and other innocent citizens. This should be a time when we nurture positive values."

"You can't force people to smile when they are unhappy. Let's have something modest," suggested Nissim Zivili (Labor).

The meeting was called, in the presence of State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat and events committee chairman Yitzhak Moda'i, to review preparations for the jubilee which have reportedly met with numerous setbacks. It was the second such meeting.

Moda'i explained that he had taken up his position only last month. He said that he had decided the committee would not organize events on its own but would fund and supervise them.

"You advised me to escape while the going is good, but it is too late to cancel," he said. "The government has already approved NIS 108m. for the budget, but it will probably have to add another 25 percent." There will be two main events, an exhibition and an air display, "and I promise you, people will be happy," Moda'i said.

He said all the usual events that take place on Independence Day, such as the torch-lighting ceremony at Mt. Herzl, would go ahead but have a special flavor. For example, he had suggested that 50 shofar-blowers sound their horns at the ceremony.

"No other country has ever missed celebrating a jubilee and we shall do our best to make this a true celebration," Moda'i added.

Committee chairman Yossi Katz said the MKs would continue to follow developments closely and that he would request a review of all decisions by Ben-Porat.

## Diaspora journalists convention to focus on 50th anniversary

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Jewish journalists from Azerbaijan to Argentina are to gather in Jerusalem today for the Seventh International Conference of the Jewish Media, which will focus on Israel's 50th anniversary.

Some 130 journalists are participating in the week-long conference, sponsored by the World Zionist Organization. It includes meetings with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, Foreign Minister David Levy, and Palestinian Authority executive committee member Faisal Hussein.

Today the journalists are to visit

Har Homa and the Western Wall Tunnel. Panel discussions planned for tomorrow will cover such issues as "Jewishness and Israeliness," and "Preserving Jewish Continuity."

Another discussion entitled, "Respect for Dialogue - How Can We Live Together?" will be addressed by Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg, and focus on the dispute over the proposed conversion bill.

A speech by Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert is planned for tomorrow night.

Thursday's itinerary includes a discussion called "New Realities in Jewish Communications," with a panel featuring Jerusalem Post publisher Norman Spector. The

panel will focus on the latest technology being introduced to the Jewish media worldwide.

Hussein, Likud MK Uzi Landau and former prime minister Shimon Peres will appear in another panel discussion on Thursday called "What Prospects for the Peace Process?"

Netanyahu is scheduled to address the conference on Friday morning, prior to a panel session on "Democracy and the Media" featuring Jerusalem Post editor Jeff Barak and other journalists from Israel and abroad.

Sunday the conference moves to the Dead Sea region, where the participants will tour the area and visit with the Ethiopian community in Beersheba.

## Suissa gives in on tourist cash deposits

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Tourists suspected of intending to overstay their visas will no longer have to deposit NIS 5,000 on their arrival, according to a decision Interior Minister Eliahu Suissa acted yesterday.

Suissa acted after an appeal by Knesset Interior Committee chairman Sallah Tarif, Yisrael Ba'alya MKs and others against the regula-

tions requiring the deposit.

An Interior Ministry spokesman said that there had been other complaints recently, including from the Tourism Ministry, that the regulation was hurting tourism.

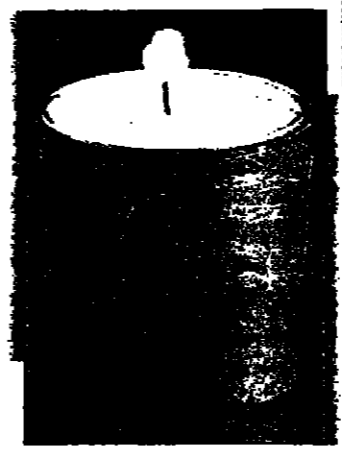
The new regulation will go into effect for a six-month trial period beginning January 1. If tourists are not overstaying their visas, Suissa will consider making the move permanent.

Reacting to the decision, Yisrael Ba'alya faction chairman MK Roman Broffman said: "We are happy about the decision, after the intense efforts we made [in our contacts with] the Interior Ministry."

Broffman said the situation had discriminated against immigrants from the former Soviet Union who wanted their relatives and friends to visit them and also hurt tourism from the former Soviet Union.

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## Lebanese lawyers in anti-Syrian strike

BEIRUT (Reuters) - Some 5,500 Lebanese lawyers will stage a three-day strike from today after the detention of 63 supporters of anti-Syrian Christian leader Michel Aoun, Beirut's lawyers' union said yesterday.

Riot police on Sunday used tear gas and clubs to disperse an estimated 200 university students, engineers and lawyers who gathered at a television station which the authorities had barred from broadcasting an interview with Aoun, a former army commander. Witnesses said several people were wounded.

While accusing the government of breaching the constitution, the lawyers asked it to punish "executive and judicial officials" responsible for Sunday's "illegal" arrests.

"The union's council has decided unanimously to ask all lawyers to halt legal or administrative activities for three days starting Tuesday, December 16, in denunciation of violations of public and private freedoms protected by the constitution," said a union statement, read by its chief Antoine Kleimous.

A source at General Prosecutor Adnan Addoum's office said 63 people were detained during Sunday's protests and that their files were being reviewed to determine whether they will be sent to civilian or military courts, or set free.

Hours after the lawyer's union announced its plans to strike, some 300 students protested at St. Joseph University, shouting slogans in support of Aoun and condemning the Syrian presence in Lebanon, witnesses said.

"Syria get out. Freedom. We want Lebanon's independence," they screamed, hurling eggs at policemen who stood nearby.

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - The European Union yesterday tried to soothe Turkey's anger after relegating it to the bottom of a long list of aspiring members.

A weekend EU summit decided to open membership talks with Cyprus and 10 ex-communist countries in Europe - but not Turkey, which first applied to join the bloc in 1963.

The consolation prize - an invitation to a European Conference of current and aspiring EU members next year - was promptly rejected by Ankara.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel urged Turkey to reconsider that decision, saying he sympathizes with its frustration.

"I hope that once the initial gun smoke of disappointment has gone, Turkey will view the matter calmly," he said. "We are not going to close the door on Turkey. Turkey belongs within Europe, we want it to be there with us."

But Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Necati Utkan said Ankara's rejection of the conference invitation berated a stagnant period of relations with the EU.

"Unless [the EU's] approach and mentality are changed, one cannot expect our relations to be developed within constructive dialogue," he told reporters.

The EU summit leaders called on Turkey to improve its human rights record, protect the rights of its Kurdish minority, and move to solve long-standing territorial disputes with Greece, including the future of Cyprus.

In response, Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz said on Sunday that Turkey would not hold talks with the EU on Cyprus, Greece, or other key issues, although bilateral relations with member states would continue.

The Turkish press hailed the rejection of the conference invitation as a historic freezing of ties with the EU.

"Relations with Europe were frozen: Turkey will not talk with the European Union on Cyprus, the Aegean, and human rights," said the *Sabah* newspaper.

But Utkan said the rejection of the invitation did not mean the end of Turkey's long-held dream of EU membership.

"Turkey will maintain its will to integrate with the EU despite the position laid out in the Luxembourg summit," he said.

The summit outcome was a source of deep disappointment to Yilmaz and his secularist political allies, who see EU membership as a guarantee of Turkey's Western vocation and a blow to their domestic Islamist critics.

EU leaders had hoped to soften the blow by inviting Ankara to the European Conference in London in mid-March, where current and prospective members of the bloc will discuss foreign and security policy, drug-trafficking, and other issues.

Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker said he regrets Turkey's "negative reaction." Britain, which takes over the rotating EU presidency on January 1, said it would "look very carefully" at Turkey's response.

A European Commission spokesman said the whole conference would be devalued if Turkey stayed away. "If Turkey does not participate, that would clearly take away the value of that conference," he told a news briefing.

The row could have implications for future EU membership talks with Cyprus, where UN troops patrol a dividing line between rival Greeks and Turks.

Greece and Turkey are also allies within NATO, which holds its own enlargement summit in Brussels on today and tomorrow.

Senior NATO officials said it is premature to say what wider impact, if any, the row with the



Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz, (left) and visiting Russian counterpart, Viktor Chernomyrdin, review a Turkish honor guard in Ankara yesterday, after Chernomyrdin arrives for a two-day visit aimed at boosting economic ties. (AP)

EU might have, but they made clear that NATO prefers Turkey to be "closer to Europe."

"A healthy relationship between Europe and Turkey helps NATO," one senior official at Alliance headquarters said. "Turkey has to be given a perspective in Europe." Turkey has in the past threatened

to disrupt NATO's eastward expansion unless it was given a fair chance of joining the EU, but had more recently toned down its rhetoric.

NATO sources said they do not see the EU-Turkey dispute affecting this week's summit, where Poland, Hungary, and the Czech

Republic will formally sign accession protocols.

"Nobody seriously expects Turkey will refuse to sign the accession protocols tomorrow. We think everything remains on schedule," one source said.

Turkish sources say Greece and Germany, both fellow NATO

members, are seen by Ankara as the main opponents of giving predominantly Moslem Turkey the "candidate" membership status that it seeks with the EU.

They say Turkey is offended that countries such as Romania and Bulgaria are on the EU list while the Turks remain in limbo.

## Defense Minister Ruehe after speech scandal:

# German army is no neo-Nazi bastion

By ERIC KIRSCHBAUM

HAMBURG (Reuters) - Defense Minister Volker Ruehe, fighting to save the German army's reputation and his own political career, denied yesterday that the Bundeswehr was a bastion of neo-Nazis.

Paying a morale-boosting visit to the elite military academy in Hamburg that has been tainted by a far-right scandal, Ruehe denounced the German media for its "hysterical" efforts to portray the army as a haven for racists.

Ruehe said it was an "unacceptable scandal" that a convicted extreme right-wing bomber, Manfred Roeder, had been invited to speak to recruits at the academy in 1995. But he firmly defended the army against charges that it harbored extremists.

"When I look at the hysteria in the German media, I sometimes have the impression that people abroad have more confidence in the German army than those people in Germany do," Ruehe said. "Of course there are concerns... But I am convinced we have taken exactly the right steps."

Ruehe spoke just hours after 11 right-wing extremists handed out about 200 leaflets containing neo-Nazi propaganda to soldiers on their way into a nearby Hamburg military base.

The skinheads left shortly after police arrived. The defense minister, once considered a possible successor to Chancellor Helmut Kohl though now fending off questions about whether he will resign, could not say if any more incidents of racism in the army would come to light.

But Ruehe insisted that the number of right-wing incidents had not risen in recent years, saying that the number of reported incidents had climbed precisely because the army was working hard to identify and root out rightists. There have been 130 incidents so far in 1997, up from 72 in all of 1996.

"I have no doubts whatsoever about the leaders of the academy," Ruehe said. "I cannot imagine that any German officer would knowingly invite a terrorist who had spent 12 years in jail to speak. I have no fears about their intentions."

Ruehe, appearing relaxed and jovial before a crowd of news conference after the speech, said the notorious 1995 speech by Roeder was "a blow that struck the German army in its most sensitive area."

"It is an unacceptable scandal that a convicted criminal, an incorrigible right-wing radical felon could come to our leadership academy," Ruehe told the officers. "Everyone here should be deeply depressed and ashamed of that."

"This man stands for intolerance, violence, is

a chauvinist and ignores human rights," he said. "That is exactly the opposite of what our army, and especially this academy, stands for... There is no place in the army for right-wing extremists."

Several other incidents linking the army with right-wing extremism have since surfaced, including reports that German soldiers on a peace mission in Croatia chanted "Sieg Heil," the Nazis' battle-cry, and the Nazis' greeting, "Heil Hitler."

Ruehe dismissed these latest reports as lies designed to discredit the army. After decades of self-imposed isolation following the horrors of World War II, the German army only recently began taking part in peacekeeping missions abroad.

"The flawless reputation that our soldiers have acquired in Bosnia apparently doesn't please everyone," Ruehe said. "There are all sorts who want to drag the army's name into the mud. I have investigated these reports and they are pure fiction."

*Der Spiegel* news magazine said that a group of young officers, at a visit to a concentration camp, reportedly made a joke about the weather. "It is so cold that someone should add a few Jews to the fire in the crematorium. They burn really well."

## New documents: Papon was diligent in rounding up Jews

By LEE YANOWITZ

BORDEAUX (Reuters) - The legal defense of accused Nazi collaborator Maurice Papon has been tested by documents suggesting he was diligent in rounding up Jews rather than uninvolved, as he has testified.

Since his wartime crimes against humanity trial began in the southwestern French city of Bordeaux two months ago, Papon has insisted he devoted his energy as a senior Vichy official to saving Jews, while bureaucrats above and below him dutifully executed Nazi orders.

Last week the court finally focused on the acts of which he is accused: the arrest of 1,560 Jews for deportation to Nazi death camps between 1942 and 1944.

Documents signed by Papon and examined in the Bordeaux courtroom last week included a requisition order for train cars in which Jews were sent on July 18, 1942, to the Drancy transit camp outside Paris, the last stop before Auschwitz.

Another spells out measures to be taken by local officials to implement a July 1942 German order for the arrest of Jews aged 16 to 45. Papon, the No. 2 official in the

Bordeaux region during the occupation period, had the list drawn up within 24 hours of receiving the German demand, despite a note from his superior telling him to "do nothing, promise nothing" until given further instructions.

Papon has repeatedly described himself as a savior of local Jews and promised to provide the court with a list of those he saved.

But when asked by the judge to produce the list, he has fallen silent and offered no other proof.

Other documents which surfaced last week in the trial, which is expected to last through March, were notes written and signed by Papon authorizing officials to begin organizing a July 16, 1942, round-up of Jews, the first of 10 Papon is accused of ordering.

The notes were addressed to police officer Rene Téchoueyre and Pierre Garat, the head of Bordeaux's Service for Jewish Questions and Papon's direct subordinate.

Papon has repeatedly insisted he had no decision-making powers and was signing such notes only on behalf of his boss, Bordeaux Prefect Maurice Sabatier.

The court is due this week to examine the case of a group of

children left behind in the Bordeaux region following the July 1942 arrest of their parents.

Prosecutors allege that Papon ordered the children taken out of hiding, the following month and deported.

Papon has denied ordering the arrests and transfers to Drancy, and has told the court he did not know at the time the Jews were being sent to death camps.

Emotions ran high in the courtroom last week during the testimony of an old man, Herz Librach, who lost most of his family in the Holocaust.

Afterwards, presiding judge Jean-Louis Castagnede projected on the wall the original list of names of those sent to Drancy and on to Auschwitz in the first transport from Bordeaux.

"Until now, it seemed as though the victims were make-believe, or virtual victims," said Alain Jakubowicz, lawyer for the B'nai B'rith, a civil plaintiff.

"But emotion has now finally entered the courtroom and the jury can see that these are not just names on a piece of paper, but people who had lives - mothers, fathers, children," Jakubowicz

## Terrorist Carlos' lawyers quit trial



A courtroom sketch by Jean Claude Bauer of Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, better known as Carlos the Jackal, standing between two guards yesterday. At right is Judge Yves Corneloup. (AP)

By NICOLAS MARMIÉ

PARIS (AP) - The lawyers for "Carlos the Jackal" quit his murder trial in its second day yesterday at the request of their client, who denounced the proceedings as a "judicial scandal" and praised his French attorney for boldly defying legal form.

Carlos, whose real name is Ilich Ramirez Sanchez - once one of the world's most wanted terrorists - had asked his three attorneys to leave the trial if the court refused their request to reopen the investigation into the 1975 triple killing.

Only one of Ramirez's attorneys, Isabelle Contant-Peyre, is French. The other two are Lebanese and

Venezuelan, like himself.

Initially, the court refused the defense request to set Ramirez free on the grounds that he was illegally arrested in Sudan and brought to France in August 1994.

The court later refused the defense demand to reopen its investigation into the killings Ramirez is accused of having carried out.

"In this affair, no one wants to look for the truth," Contant-Peyre said before leaving the courtroom. "Your decision," she told the court, "is contrary to the principles for which I took my oath."

The lawyers then walked out. "I am very proud of having met an honest French lawyer who conserves

the traditions of courage which gave France its grandeur," Ramirez said as his lawyers filed out.

He then denounced the trial as a "judicial scandal." Contant-Peyre could risk sanctioning for defying Presiding Judge Yves Corneloup, who ordered her to stay on.

If the lawyers do not return to the trial, expected to last until Friday, it was likely Ramirez would be assigned a lawyer since French procedure calls for defendants to be represented.

Ramirez is on trial in Paris for the 1975 killing of two French intelligence agents and a Lebanese colleague.

The defense contends the victims were actually killed in a plot carried

out by the Mossad and the CIA.

"These policemen were sent to the slaughterhouse by Israeli agents," Ramirez told the court.

The court opened the trial's second day by rejecting Ramirez's argument that he was arrested illegally when French agents spirited him out of the Sudan August 14, 1994.

Contant-Peyre said Ramirez had been "illegally kidnapped."

The court also put off a decision on Ramirez's request to remove a terrorists' victims association, SOS-Attentats, from the trial. The group is a civil party to the case against Ramirez. Ramirez denounced what he called the "incestuous relations" between the judges and SOS-Attentats.

## Clinton to visit Bosnia next week

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Bill Clinton is likely to fly to Bosnia soon for a whirlwind Christmas visit with US peacekeeping forces, a White House official said Sunday.

The president would very much like to visit our troops in Bosnia and planning is going forward on such a trip," the official said.

Although details had not been finalized, Clinton's visit probably would last less than a day, he added.

But the *Washington Post* reported yesterday that Clinton would leave next Sunday or Monday and visit Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital, and Tuzla, the major base for US troops. He would be on the ground for roughly 12-14 hours, it said.

The president traditionally makes an appearance with military personnel during the holiday season.

White House aides told the *Post* that they believed soldiers serving in Bosnia under restrictive rules and at some risk to their safety deserved recognition and a morale boost.

The newspaper said the trip also would serve to build the case back home for why US troops may have to remain in Bosnia beyond the June 1998 deadline Clinton set for a withdrawal.

Clinton is considering retaining US troops in Bosnia within some international force after a NATO-led stabilization force (SFOR) of more than 34,000 is withdrawn in June.

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صناديق الاصل

# The dry bones' prophecy II

By DANIEL WILLIAMS

**YEKATERINBURG, Russia** — Early this month, a train arrived at the central railway station here pulling a green, armored wagon containing several heavy safes and some medical equipment. The special car was sent by President Boris Yeltsin to carry to Moscow the bones of the murdered Czar Nicholas II, his wife, Alexandra, and their children, family physician and servants.

The return trip was meant to open the last act in one of Russia's most mysterious and painful historical sagas, that of the imprisonment, execution, secret burial, discovery, identification and, finally, reburial of the Romanovs, the country's last imperial family.

But local officials refuse to give up the remains. Last week, following much negotiation and the hurling of insults between Moscow and Yekaterinburg authorities, the train left bearing only the bones of Anna Demidova, Alexandra's loyal lady-in-waiting.

The tug-of-war adds yet one more indignity to the many visited on the family, which in their last moments of life suffered pitiless torment in the basement of an Yekaterinburg mansion. One Moscow author described the current treatment as "the second murder of the Romanovs."

For six years the nine skeletons have been examined for authenticity, and dates for a royal burial have been set and discarded repeatedly.

Three independent examinations have matched genetic material from Nicholas' bones with DNA from distant relatives. Other tests prove the bones of Nicholas and four of the other skeletons are related.

Examinations by various forensic experts indicate that those are the remains of Alexandra and daughters Tatiana, Olga and Anastasia.

The bodies of daughter Marie and Alexei, Nicholas' son and heir to the throne, are believed to have been burned by the assassins.

The other remains are identified as those of Demidova, the physician Eugene Botkin, a cook named Ivan Kharitonov and Alouzy Trupp, Nicholas' valet.

Heavy circumstantial evidence also points to authenticity. Notes attributed to the chief assassin, Yakov Yurovsky, describe a country road topped by railroad ties. The skeletons were found in such a place. Bullets, crushed skulls and jaws attest to brutal murders.

What are the chances a group of skeletons linked genetically to the royalty of Europe could appear in a mass grave near Yekaterinburg and not be the Romanovs?

"All the scientific tests have been done," said Alexander Avdonin, a geologist and amateur historian who was part of a team that discovered the remains. "It is immoral that in six years they have not yet been buried. We should now act as morally as possible and do everything possible to bring Russia to peace." But some Russians suspect the bones are not authentic — apparently a holdover from years of official deceit. Also, Russians are still debating the czar's place in history, and this affects plans for how he ought to be buried.

Politics enters in: Who is to blame for the murders? Was it Lenin or zealous local officials? Plus, the far-flung Romanov family is divided over whether the remains are Nicholas' and, if they are, how ought they to be buried.

And, of course, whoever gets final control of the czar's remains obtains an instant tourist attraction. So officials in Yekaterinburg, Moscow and St. Petersburg, the czarist capital, vie for the privilege. Everybody in this city in the southern Ural Mountains knows

about the mansion belonging to Ipatiev the merchant. That was where the Romanovs were kept under Bolshevik guard and where on the night of July 17, 1918, their jailers killed them.

A description of the murders, penned by Yurovsky, makes chilling reading. After informing Nicholas the family was doomed because anti-Bolshevik rebels planned to rescue them, Yurovsky pulled out a Mauser pistol and "shot and killed him outright." Then other gunmen, each with a specified target, entered the room. "At that moment, disorganized, disorderly firing began. . . . Bullets began to ricochet, because the wall was brick.

"It turned out that the daughters, [and] Alexandra, and it seems, Demidova and Alexei, too, were alive. I think they had fallen from fear or maybe intentionally, so they were alive. Then we proceeded to finish the shooting. Alexei remained sitting petrified. I killed him. [The others] shot the daughters but did not kill them. . . . Finally, they killed them by shooting them in the head."

The Ipatiev house is gone; Boris Yeltsin was the Communist Party official who, in 1977, bulldozed the house because it was becoming a magnet for monarchist pilgrims.

Avdonin, the geologist, spent many years informally investigating before finding the remains' whereabouts in 1979. He kept it secret until 1991, after a fellow discoverer spilled the news in a magazine. Avdonin suspects Moscow wants the bones for some nefarious "political reason."

"They are too fragile to move around. They have been buried under a road for 80 years, cars have run over them. Some of them are like lace," he said.

At the Yekaterinburg morgue, the bones lie down the hall from cor-

ner Nikolai Nevolin's office on slabs covered by a glass hood. The room is guarded by Russian riot police. Recently, one of Nicholas' vertebrae disappeared; Nevolin suspects a British television crew palmed the artifact. "I am tired of foreigners coming to visit," he said.

Under a compromise reached between local and national officials, the remains will shuttle between Yekaterinburg and Moscow for tests. To take a set of remains, the Muscovites must return a previously borrowed set intact.

Nevoln said Yekaterinburg officials agreed to release Demidova's bones, and others perhaps later, under certain conditions: that new forensic examinations be made; that Nicholas' skull be examined for traces of a scar said to have resulted when attacked by a crazed Japanese assailant during an 1891 visit to Japan; that three-dimensional computer models be made of the skeletons for future study; and that a pair of wisdom teeth be tested for DNA matching.

Finally, the investigators must look for signs of ritual killing. The ritual killing rumor echoes from Russian and European medieval history, although there has never been a recorded instance of such blood sacrifice.

The question was also put by the Russian Orthodox Church on the grounds that the rumor must be quashed. The church asked investigators to look into nine other issues, among them the need to authenticate Yurovsky's handwritten report, to compare the present probe with past investigations, and to see whether Nicholas was possibly beheaded.

There is an old rumor that Lenin kept the czar's head in a safe. There are also bones stored in a church in Belgium that some emigres believe were the czar's.

(The Washington Post)



Warming up over the eternal flame in St. Petersburg's Marsovo cemetery, where heroes of Russia's October Revolution are buried. Now Russians wonder how to express their newly restored respect for their once disgraced royal dynasty. (AP)

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# Bubble gum for the masses

In Tune



By David Brinn

It's time for the end-of-year cleanup when those discs that have been gathering dust at the bottom of the pile clamor to be heard. And what do they scream? "Pop!" The term "pop music" has always been slammed by us rock connoisseurs as something disposable, with no lasting power. And upon listening to the latest pop releases, that assessment still rings true. Whether light as whipped cream or sugary as a *suffragette*, one thing that unifies the following artists is their sweetness. So let's get happy and dive into the goo.

**THE BEST** of Wham may sound like an oxymoron. But George Michael's



George Michael's (left) adolescent alliance with Andrew Ridgley resulted in some endearingly soulful dance music and pop ballads.

- THE BEST OF WHAM**  
Wham  
(NMC)
- LIKE YOU DO ... BEST OF LIGHTNING SEEDS**  
Lightning Seeds  
(NMC)
- TRULY - THE LOVE SONGS**  
Lionel Richie  
(Helicon)
- POSTCARDS FROM HEAVEN**  
Lighthouse Family  
(Helicon)
- O PARASIO**  
("Parasio")  
Madredeus  
(NMC)

adolescent alliance with Andrew Ridgley, who has since gone on to Trivial Pursuit infamy, actually crafted some endearingly soulful dance music and pop ballads.

The duo's squeaky clean production and awkward attempts at

rap-style material aside, their hits (based on three albums) hint at the semi-talent that would soon make Michael a journeyman soulster in his own right. But please don't make me listen to "Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go" ever again.

**THE LIGHTNING SEEDS** sound like the Pet Shop Boys with guitars instead of synthesizers. Bouncy, melody-driven pop songs performed by a mostly one-man band headed by Ian Broudie, the group invokes sunny images and a fragile demeanor.

Listening to their greatest hits - which also comes after three whole albums - is a guilty pleasure, like sneaking a yummy, fattening dessert with absolutely no nutritional value. This includes their hit remake of the Byrds-written, Turtles-performed 1960s gem, "You Shook Me."

**SOMEONE MUCH** more deserved of a greatest hits collec-

tion is R&B crooner Lionel Richie who racked up 13 Top 10 hits between 1981 and 1987. This collection centers on Richie's love songs from his solo career as well as earlier tunes from his days with the Commodores.

Sentimental and mushy, there's still a craft to this, and Richie does it better than almost anyone. This includes the duet with Diana Ross "Endless Love," the mega-hit "Hello" and one of the all-time best slow-dance songs, "Three Times a Lady." Where's my prom tux?

**THE LIGHTHOUSE FAMILY** is a black/white Newcastle-on-Tyne duo which has been burning up the English and local charts with its mildly interesting brand of pop. Given vocalist Tunde Baiyewu's Nigerian roots - you'd never know it musically - or Paul Tucker's varied musical background, there's very little here to distinguish the group from acts like Simply Red or Seal.

Combining decent dance rhythms with lyrics, the groups calls itself R&B or soul, but such an appellation probably has Muddy Waters and Marvin Gaye spinning in their graves.

Their second album, *Postcards From Heaven* is fairly consistent within the limited confines. "High" is decent single material and an album highlight. The bottom line is that their highly produced tracks could be appropriate for the dance floor or background music, but they lack the imagination and luster that makes a fair album a good one. Just as white bread can be tasty, *Postcards* has its moments.

**MADREDEUS IS** what happens when two leading Portuguese pop stars (Pedro Ayres and Rodrigo Leo) get bored with the standard fare they're churning out, and begin writing tunes for two acoustic guitars. Ayres began writing lyrics to fit, while imag-

ining the sort of "voice" that might sing them.

One night at a club, their attention was drawn to a young woman who suddenly began to sing fado, traditional Portuguese folk music, at a table where she was sitting with a group of friends. This was how they first met the then teenager Teresa Salgueiro, whom they quickly invited to an audition. After the first few songs, the musicians realized that they had found the voice they had been looking for.

Since that event in 1986 they have put out a few albums, and had their ups and downs. *O Parasio* is actually Madredeus's comeback album after a recent breakup. Madredeus sings of love, dreams, spring and the good things in life. Put it on and politics, strikes and the daily grind melt away. So, in the spirit of national harmony, grab a Brazilian friend to translate the lyrics, sit back and enjoy an hour's worth of paradise.

## 'L.A. Confidential' sweeps critics' awards

**L.A. Confidential** has been judged the best movie of 1997 as the Los Angeles Film Critics Association added its vote to those already bestowed by the New York Film Critics and National Board of Review.

The movie's director, Curtis Hanson, also was chosen Saturday by Los Angeles film critics as best director for the film noir about crooked cops in 1950s Los Angeles, which was adapted from the James Ellroy novel. The film also won best screenplay (Hanson and Brian Koppelman), and best cinematography (Dante Spinotti).

The New York Film Critics gave *L.A. Confidential* best film and director nods. Two days earlier, the National Board of Review of Motion Pictures, gave best movie and director honors to *L.A. Confidential*, which was also named best screenplay by the National Board of Review.

Other best picks by Los Angeles Film Critics Association: Actress - Helena Bonham-Carter,

*Wings of the Dove*. Actor - Robert Duvall, *The Apostle*. Supporting Actress - Julianne Moore, *Boogie Nights*. Supporting Actor - Burt Reynolds, *Boogie Nights*. New Generation - Paul Thomas Anderson, *Boogie Nights*, *Hard Eight*. Foreign Film - Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne, *La Promesse*. Documentary - Michael Uys, *Lexy Lovell, Riding the Rails*. Production Design - Peter Lamont, *Titanic*. Animation - John Musker, Ron Clements, *Hercules* and Trey Parker, Matt Stone, *The Spirit of Christmas*. Music/Score - Philip Glass, *Kundun*. Career Achievement - Joseph H. Lewis. Special Citation - Peter Bogdanovich, for contributions since 1960, interviews of directors and his 1997 book, *Who the Devil Made It*. (AP)



Tabloid journalist Sid Hodgeons (Danny DeVito, left) schmoozes with high-profile cop Jack Vincennes (Kevin Spacey) in 'L.A. Confidential.'

## Cross-dressing on the 'Dunes'

Tahar Ben Jalon's 'Down among the Dunes' (Hebrew title, *Bein Hahator*) is one of 14 minor productions listed by the new Fringe Center and scheduled to play on the small stages of Tzavta and ZOA House.

They will be found to be rewarding by all theatergoers concerned about the future of serious local drama.

A bright beacon as regards quality of content, performance, and presentation, they range from *The Treatment (Haipul)*, already reviewed here as subtle, sophisticated avant garde, to pieces like *Yearnings for Kissinger*, mini-

*Wish*, also playing here, *Down among the Dunes*, while performed in Hebrew, is based on an Arabic text. A well-known actress, Rivka Bechar gives a virtuoso performance in the role of Ahmed, the last of eight daughters born to a disappointed Moroccan father who had expected this child to be a son. In his frustration, he decides to raise her as the man she should have been.

Female impersonators are no rarity on our stages. But a woman who plays a man is something of a phenomenon. Shaven-headed, in flowing Moroccan galabiah, Bechar builds a moving portrait of a tragic, tormented personality torn between the urges of her gut femininity and the acquired mannerisms of her macho upbringing.

As a male impersonator, her characterization is formidable. Visceral body language, expressive eye and mouth movement, and a flexible vocal range are incorporated to make a more than convincing figure. Her presentation does not, however, end there. Exploiting the story-teller's treatment embodied in the text, she peoples the stage with a host of indigenous Moslem Moroccan types that conjure up the manners and mores of that nation with striking verisimilitude.

### THEATER REVIEW

**DOWN AMONG THE DUNES**  
"Bein Hahator"  
by Tahar Ben Jalon  
Direction, HBI's Neeman  
At ZOA House, Tel Aviv

musicals with a local slant, or *Mr. V.*, a weighty projection of this country's most controversial traitor, Vanunu. Mostly mono- or duo-dramas powerfully directed and cast, they have already proven themselves in the framework of fringe festivals like the Theatermeto and Acre. Like Hakim Yassin's *Death*

## The serene spirituality of Fauré's Requiem

**Concert Roundup**

The Fauré Requiem is not as grandiose as that of Verdi, not as philosophical as that of Brahms or as emotionally loaded as that of Mozart. The Fauré Requiem is a much more spiritual than dramatic work, a very French opus which is more serene than somber, more evocative than mesmerizing. Yet it is a magical opus that captivates the audience in its purity and simplicity.

Fauré Requiem is a much more spiritual than dramatic work, a very French opus which is more serene than somber, more evocative than mesmerizing. Yet it is a magical opus that captivates the audience in its purity and simplicity.

tion of orchestra and chorus that made this performance shine.

The orchestra was also superb playing the haunting *Pavane* by Fauré and the quite dramatic Third (*Liturgique*) Symphony by Honegger, a didactic programmatic opus about a world losing itself and its humanity, yet a piece that has its moments of dramatic beauty and charm. IPO principal flutist Yossi Amheim had several beautiful solos in this 20th-century program, which was well chosen, well presented and extremely well performed by the IPO and its chief guest conductor.

Michael Ajzenstadt

**IPO**  
Fauré and Honegger  
Mann Auditorium  
December 14

ity. And all these qualities of the Requiem emerged under Antonio Pappano's delicate baton, a very poetic reading of a work that has its own special charm and aura. The Slovak Philharmonic Choir was superb, soprano Juanita Lascarró sang her beautiful "Pie Jesu" solo with majestic purity and delicate spirituality of the voice, and baritone Nathan Gunn provided his solos with agility. But above all, it was the combina-

European definition in geography books. The subtle nuances of ornamentations and dynamics were exhibited by Ramiz Guliev from Azerbaijan on the tar (long-necked lute). Diversified though these various traditions are, their common denominator, improvisation, was demonstrated even in some composed pieces.

The local musicians who joined the foreign masters displayed a fair degree of adaptability and receptiveness to their guests' styles rather than engaging in a musical dialogue with them. In this sense, the encounter proved enriching.

**MIDDLE EASTERN MUSIC TRADITIONS**  
Zionist Confederation House  
December 10

The most pretentious Israeli piece, by Israel Borachov and his group, turned out to be the poorest one musically: would-be Bolero proceeding in a contrived melody lacking the inspiration and freshness of the preceding ethnic genres. A medley of traditional tunes in a jazzed-up version was presented by saxophonist Albert Fiamanta and his group as an inevitable concession to the pop-oriented audience. A highly imaginative percussion solo on the Arab drums was their most enchanting contribution.

Ury Epstein

## Johnny Cash faces daunting challenge

By JIM PATTERSON

In his songs, Johnny Cash never shied away from life's dark side. It's all there: temptation, murder, incarceration and just plain loneliness.

Now the singer of "Folsom Prison Blues" and many other hits faces another demon: Parkinson's disease. The condition threatens his ability to sing and play music, which is all he's ever wanted to do. It's the latest of a long list of health challenges that have plagued the 65-year-old singer, including addictions to amphetamines and pain killers, and open-heart surgery in 1988.

Parkinson's attacks the nervous system and erodes motor skills. It is caused by the loss of brain cells which secrete dopamine, a chemical necessary to keep muscle movements smooth and controlled.

It is a progressive and incurable disease, though medication can slow its spread and control symptoms such as shaking and drooling.

Cash's grandfather, William Henry Cash, died of Parkinson's in 1912.

"He knew about it from a physical he had earlier in the fall," Cash's manager Lou Robin said. "He had no symptoms at the time, so he didn't attempt to address it. In his mind, he wasn't going to have it, so that was that."

At his last concert, on October 25 in Flint, Michigan, Cash, almost fell down while bending to retrieve his guitar pick. Two days earlier, he performed in Knoxville, Tennessee. A reviewer for *The Knoxville News-Sentinel* wrote that Cash's timing seemed off and he didn't appear for an encore.

On October 27, he canceled a book tour in New York to promote *Cash: The Autobiography*. The

news release that he has Parkinson's. Since then, he has been in seclusion with his family while getting medical advice and considering his future.

"Johnny feels confident that once the Parkinson's is medically stabilized, he can resume his normal work schedule," Robin said.

Cash normally performs about 80 concerts a year. He also works in the recording studio and films television commercials.

With treatment, he probably could continue performing, said Dr. Thomas Davis, director of the movement disorders clinic at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. "The disease is extremely variable from person to person," said Davis, who is not treating Cash. "Certainly, earlier in the disease many performers could continue doing what they normally would do. Also, early on it can be fairly local. For example, the right hand could be affected enough to hurt guitar-playing, but someone could still sing."

If retirement ever sounded good to Cash, he probably would have done it by now. He doesn't need to work. He has sold over 50 million records, and he and wife June Carter Cash own homes outside

Nashville, in Jamaica, the British West Indies, and in Port Richey, Florida.

Through four decades of troubles, triumphs and varying degrees of commercial success, Cash has consistently toured and recorded music. In an interview last year with *The Associated Press*, he said he had a "burning desire" to continue performing.

In the early days of his career, Cash scored rock 'n' roll hits like "Ballad of a Teenage Queen" and was known as an amphetamine-addicted hell-raiser who tore up hotel rooms.

In the 1960s and '70s, he became a country music superstar, weaving folk music, country and gospel into a unique stew. "The Johnny Cash Show" aired on ABC from 1969-71, one of the first network variety shows with a country music performer as host.

He is the only living member of the Country Music Hall of Fame and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. His country music popularity faded in the 1980s, but in recent years a younger generation discovered him and gave his career new life. His audience these days includes senior citizens and people in their 20s.

Since 1994, he has released two CDs on American Recordings, owned by rap-heavy metal producer Rick Rubin. And he's become a hero to younger country music performers who have found themselves, like Cash, unwelcome in the mainstream of country music.

"Johnny Cash is the John Wayne of country music," said Robbie Fulks, a singer-songwriter from Chicago. "He's unapologetic, gigantic and alone. His singing is too unpretentious for country and too dignified for rock. His music at his most powerful makes you wonder if there is a moral quality to human suffering." Cash has suffered many medical problems through the years. A pinched nerve in his jaw causes him constant pain, and he was treated for addiction to morphine in 1984 at the Betty Ford Center for Chemical Dependence.

In 1988, he underwent successful double-bypass heart surgery. The following year he entered a drug-and-alcohol treatment center to guard against a relapse after he stopped taking pain medication.

Although Cash and his family are uneasy about his current condition, they are hopeful the Parkinson's can be stabilized using medication, Robin said. So far, his only symptom has been equilibrium problems. Experimental surgical procedures will be considered, he said. "He's faced a lot of challenges in his life," Robin said. "He thrives on challenges and will deal with this accordingly." If Cash can still perform, chances are he will.

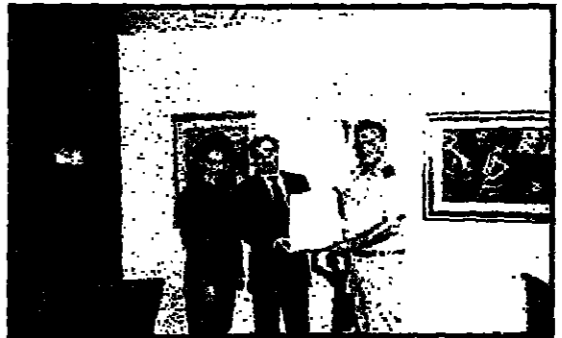
In *Cash: The Autobiography*, he writes that he'd like to "just keel over and die on the stage, under the lights, with my band and my family around me and Fluke (drummer W.S. Holland) still laying down the beat. That's every performer's dream, you know." (AP)

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## Unwelcome guest

Louis Farrakhan, who ended a visit to the Palestinian autonomous areas yesterday, is generally described by the media as a "controversial black leader." Journalistic shorthand might require such a sanitized description, but let the record show the truth: Farrakhan is an unrepentant racist and antisemite, made all the more dangerous by feigned attempts at moderation.

Yesterday, Farrakhan told Army Radio that he harbors "no hatred for the Jewish world" and his statement calling Jews "bloodsuckers" needs to be understood in the proper context. "I grew up in Boston," Farrakhan continued, "and all my childhood friends were Jewish ... My criticisms are not out of hatred but from love and desire to improve, like the prophets of the Bible."

What a relief. Now we know that when Farrakhan claims that Jews were behind the slave trade; that Jews oppress blacks through their control of the US government, Hollywood, and the banks; that German Jews financed Hitler, who was a "great man"; that Jewish bankers "forced" Japan to attack America at Pearl Harbor; and that Judaism is a "dirty religion" — that he means all this as constructive criticism. How could anyone have confused such loving advice with antisemitism?

Of course, it might be more worrisome if Farrakhan were to regard Jews and Israel with friendship, given his attraction to the world's leading dictators. On his last swing of world diplomacy, in early 1996, Farrakhan was the special guest of Nigeria's military dictator, Sani Abacha. To the horror of African-American activists trying to restore democracy to Nigeria, Farrakhan defended Abacha's execution of Nigerian writer Ken Saro-Wiwa, saying "You hanged one man. So what? Ask them, too. How many did you hang?"

Farrakhan's most famous friend is Libya's bizarre strongman, Muammar Gaddafi. Plans for a great partnership to mobilize, in Gaddafi's words, "oppressed blacks, Arabs, Moslems, and Red Indians" in the United States were somewhat stymied by the American government's blocking a \$1 billion Libyan contribution to Farrakhan's organization, but presumably this collaboration will continue.

Next it was off to Sudan, the newest nation on the US list of terrorist-supporting nations.

Farrakhan met with Sudanese President Omar Hassan Bashir, seemingly oblivious to the fact that Sudan is one of the few nations in the world where black slavery still exists. According to human rights groups, Moslems from Sudan's northern region regularly enslave Sudanese blacks, and sell women and children in slave markets for as little as \$15.

No proper world tour would be complete without stops in both Teheran and Baghdad, where Farrakhan was welcomed with open arms and where he showed that he could America-bash with the best of them. To the Iranian parliament, Farrakhan pledged that he would "utilize American Moslem unity as a lever of pressure against the United States' arrogant policies" and lauded the mullah's regime as "a perfect example of government based on the Koran." In Iraq, Farrakhan railed against international sanctions, calling them "a crime against humanity" and compared the hospitals he visited there to "death camps."

Despite all this, the Israeli government was right to allow him to cross the border and pray at the Al-Aksa mosque on his current "peace mission," as he said he wished to do, though he canceled his visit to Jerusalem at the last minute, for unknown reasons. Farrakhan's sowing of hatred and embrace of dictatorships is distasteful, but it is not illegal so long as he took no actions that would threaten public safety.

It was also correct, however, that no Israeli government official would meet with him. To do so would be an insult to Jews all over the world, particularly to American Jews, who must contend with his systematic poisoning of black-Jewish relations. It is unclear why MK Dedi Zucker was so woefully-headed as to suggest that the government invite him here for an official visit.

The fact that Farrakhan does have some fringe support within the American black community, and that he combines charges of poisonous conspiracies with positive messages, such as preaching responsibility, should not be allowed to confuse respectable public figures so much that they give him any measure of recognition. Farrakhan certainly knows how to use those who ostracize him to play the victim, but to do otherwise is to condone hate-mongering as a form of counseling.



OLEG 697

## No entry

STEWART WEISS

The government's decision to allow Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan into Israel, even though his planned visit to Jerusalem never took place, is more than just ill-advised; it is but another example of our lack of national pride, and our willingness to coddle terrorists and avowed enemies of our people.

Farrakhan has been preaching his anti-white, anti-American, anti-Jewish and anti-Israeli diatribe since the early 1950s when, as a calypso singer, he recorded the song, "A White Man's Heaven is a Black Man's Hell." At the time, he was known as Louis X. Wolcott, and was a dedicated disciple of the late black Moslem leader Elijah Muhammad. When Muhammad died, and his successor Wallace Muhammad sought a reconciliation with white America, Wolcott — now known as Farrakhan — broke with the movement to promote his separatist, racist ideology.

Farrakhan might have remained relatively obscure had he not formed an alliance with Jesse Jackson when the latter bid for the US presidential nomination in 1984. His public association with Jackson afforded him the national publicity he sought; his rabid anti-semitic comments only heightened that exposure. While Jackson disassociated himself from Farrakhan's remarks, he did not reject the man or his support, thus giving Farrakhan a platform from which he could preach his brand of white supremacy.

Since then, Farrakhan has played to alarmingly large audiences in America and around the world. At each rally, he has voiced his vision of America as "the Great Satan." He has viciously defamed Judaism, calling it "a gutter religion," and has labeled Israel "an outlaw state" that "will lead to the destruction of the Western World." Farrakhan has gone so far as to praise Hitler as "a great man," misunderstood by the writers of history.

Farrakhan perceives anti-semitism as the road to success

**By playing 'the Jewish card,' Farrakhan has garnered mass quantities of free publicity, the life-blood of the demagogue**

for his extremism, as it strikes a responsive chord among alienated and economically-powerless blacks, who have become increasingly radical in their rejection of the present political establishment. Despite a long history of black-Jewish cooperation on matters of civil rights, the two groups have grown far apart over issues like quotas and affirmative action, and the Jews have now been characterized as a primary adversary of the blacks in their struggle for full equality.

BY playing "the Jewish card," Farrakhan has garnered mass quantities of free publicity, the life-blood of the demagogue. His attacks upon Israel have brought him a \$5 million interest-free loan from Libya's dictator Muammar Gaddafi, a ticker-tape parade in Tripoli, and a pledge of \$1 billion for his organization (embargued by the American government as part of its sanctions against Libya). His appeal to black America to "break free from the chains of white bondage" — symbolized first and foremost by the Jews, whom he has branded as the instigators of the slave trade — has struck a dangerously raw nerve among the young and poor of the black community.

This is not to say that Farrakhan has not scored certain successes in his attempt to raise the morale and integrity of the blacks: He has — through programs like the celebrated Million Man March — caused large numbers of blacks to take command of their lives and go back to work, return to their families, and reject lives of crime and unemployment. But even these positive achievements of Farrakhan's cannot excuse his bigotry.

Until now, despite innumerable attempts by a variety of public and private figures — black and white, Farrakhan has refused to publicly disavow his racist statements and antisemitic rhetoric. In newspapers and before white audiences, he claims to have no prejudice "whatsoever" towards Jews and Israelis. But, when he preaches to his constituents, he is unreformed in his viciousness towards our people.

We here in Israel have always encouraged visits from Jew and non-Jew alike. But until Farrakhan demonstrates that he is no longer an enemy of our people, he is one tourist whose visa should remain unstamp.

The writer is a rabbi, is director of the Jewish Outreach Center in Ra'anana.

## Senseless fights

YOSSI BELIN

During the discussions held last year by several Likud and Labor MKs, which produced the proposal for the final-status arrangement known as the Eitan-Belin Plan, there arose, as was to be expected, the question of the status of the Palestinian residents of east Jerusalem, who are today Jordanian citizens.

Instinctively, several of the Likud members said that since there is no dispute between Likud and Labor on the principle that Jerusalem must remain united and receive recognition as Israel's capital, under Israeli sovereignty, Jerusalem's Arabs should be Israeli citizens.

There was silence for a moment. Then, another Likud MK asked: "Do you know what would have happened if we had succeeded in making this dream come true before the '96 elections?" He hurried to answer: "Shimon Peres would today be the prime minister, and we would have long ago replaced [Binyamin] Netanyahu, as the opposition head that failed to bring us to power!" The others retracted their earlier statements, admitting they hadn't thought of this.

"It would be better," continued the Likud MK, "that the 180,000 Arabs in east Jerusalem live in an autonomous quarter of Jerusalem that is under our sovereignty, but vote for the Palestinian parliament." When Likud leaders shouted from the rooftops about preventing the Palestinian census from taking place in Jerusalem and rushed last week to pass legislation on the matter, I thought it was too bad they had not participated in that in-depth, serious discussion that members of the two factions held last year. If they had thought about it for a moment, they would have realized that both sides here have a mutual

desire to assure that Israel continues to be both a Jewish and democratic state.

Under the agreement between us and the PLO, the Palestinian Authority may not carry out any activities that demonstrate sovereignty, outside those areas that are handed over to them. Not in Haifa, not in Tel Aviv, not in Eilat, and not in Jerusalem. A census does not fall in this category, however; by the same token, there is nothing stopping us from conducting a similar survey of Australian Jewry. But anyone who fears that the census is likely to hint that in the future, east Jerusalem Arabs will be citizens of a Palestinian state is mistaken. That is the optimal solution, both for the Palestinians and for us.

It is the optimal solution precisely because there will be a Palestinian state, whose capital will be outside united Jerusalem. The Arab residents of east Jerusalem will no longer be Jordanian citizens, and will no longer have any interest in Israeli citizenship. They will ask for Palestinian citizenship, even though they will, in fact, be living outside their state, and they will be able to vote for the Palestinian parliament — just as Jews who will choose to remain in Hebron after the Palestinian state is established will live outside the State of Israel, but will be able to vote for the Knesset.

Instead of starting senseless fights over the census in Jerusalem, it would be better for our prime minister to think seriously as to what type of answers he plans to give US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright this week. Because if he goes to her again with empty hands, she may well not turn the other cheek for a kiss.

The writer is a Labor MK.

## Old-time values

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

Against the backdrop of the highly embarrassing report about Sara Netanyahu's problematic behavior in Friday's *Yediot Aharonot*, few seem to have paid attention to a much more interesting media event, which occurred last Wednesday — the appearance of former prime ministers Yitzhak Shamir (82) and Shimon Peres (73) together on Nissim Mishal's weekly interview show on Channel 1.

The performance given by the two veteran leaders, with very little intervention on Mishal's part — who seemed to be enjoying himself immensely, and not without reason — was a most enlightening presentation of the traditional Herut and Mapai positions.

Shamir represented the well-known Herut dogmatism, which combined ideals, values and determination with unbelievably rigid thinking. Peres, on the other hand, represented the classic Mapai pragmatism, which combined ideals, values and determination with extraordinary flexibility. In terms of style they were also reminiscent of their old parties.

Shamir, whose facial expression showed his total opposition and even revulsion from much of what Peres said ("I can't listen to this," he said when Peres spoke of the need for Israel to relinquish the territories and insisted that the Netanyahu government had already gone half the way in accepting this), nevertheless maintained the old Revisionist *hadar* (deference). Peres, on the other hand, was aggressive and condescending, and kept interrupting Shamir.

The only thing the two seemed to agree on was that the current leaders of their respective parties — Binyamin Netanyahu and Ehud Barak — are unworthy heirs. Where the two differed the most centered on what constitutes

reality. According to Shamir, Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip are empty areas which Israel should never agree to relinquish; had Israel refrained from signing the Oslo Accords the PLO would have collapsed and Israel could have found ways to effectively deal with Hamas; and the crisis in the relations between Israel and the US should not be taken seriously.

According to Peres, Israel has attempt to maintain courteous relations in those years, the two used to meet occasionally together with their wives — the vivacious Shulamit Shamir and the camera-shy Sonia Peres — for dinner.

HAD the joint interview taken place on Thursday rather than Wednesday, after the general content of the *Yediot* story had been widely reported, the two ex-prime ministers would have no doubt been asked by Mishal about the Sara Netanyahu affair.

My guess is that the two would have reacted very similarly, because they both belong to a generation of Israelis to whom the vulgarity of both the Netanyahu's lifestyle and today's media is anathema. However, I would also not be surprised if both were less concerned with Sara's problematic behavior, than with the way her husband has chosen to deal with the issue.

The problem is not in the fact that the prime minister chose to stand behind his wife and defend her. That is certainly laudable, and one assumes both Shamir and Peres would have acted in the same way in the unlikely event of their having found themselves in a similar situation. However, there is a difference between the country's top public figure standing behind his problematic wife on the one hand, and on the other giving in to her whims and dreams of grandeur at the public's expense and covering up for her whenever she loses control. Any way one looks at it, Netanyahu's conduct vis-à-vis his wife, demonstrates poor judgement and/or weakness of character. Suddenly one looks back with a modicum of nostalgia at both Shamir and Peres, despite all their shortcomings and foibles. One might recall that in an

attempt to maintain courteous relations in those years, the two used to meet occasionally together with their wives — the vivacious Shulamit Shamir and the camera-shy Sonia Peres — for dinner.

HAD the joint interview taken place on Thursday rather than Wednesday, after the general content of the *Yediot* story had been widely reported, the two ex-prime ministers would have no doubt been asked by Mishal about the Sara Netanyahu affair.

My guess is that the two would have reacted very similarly, because they both belong to a generation of Israelis to whom the vulgarity of both the Netanyahu's lifestyle and today's media is anathema. However, I would also not be surprised if both were less concerned with Sara's problematic behavior, than with the way her husband has chosen to deal with the issue.

The problem is not in the fact that the prime minister chose to stand behind his wife and defend her. That is certainly laudable, and one assumes both Shamir and Peres would have acted in the same way in the unlikely event of their having found themselves in a similar situation.

However, there is a difference between the country's top public figure standing behind his problematic wife on the one hand, and on the other giving in to her whims and dreams of grandeur at the public's expense and covering up for her whenever she loses control. Any way one looks at it, Netanyahu's conduct vis-à-vis his wife, demonstrates poor judgement and/or weakness of character. Suddenly one looks back with a modicum of nostalgia at both Shamir and Peres, despite all their shortcomings and foibles. One might recall that in an

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### DAMAGING EDITORIAL

Sir — We regard your editorial "Turkey fails to shape up" (December 14) as inaccurate, unbalanced and damaging to Israel's vital interests.

The European Community's continued refusal to admit Turkey has already done enormous damage by stimulating Islamic fundamentalism in that country and may yet succeed in turning "the only successful secular democratic Moslem state in the Middle East" into a fundamentalist dictatorship allied with Iran and Pakistan.

Your editorial shows concern for the rights of the Kurdish minority in Turkey, yet criticizes Turkey's protection of the rights of the Turkish minority in Cyprus. It implicitly justifies not only PKK terrorism, but also the provision of training camps and bases for PKK operations by Syria, Lebanon and Greece.

These enemies of Turkey are also Israel's enemies — or in the case of Greece support our enemies, while the alliance with Turkey is essential to Israel's security and its ability to negotiate with the Arabs from a position of strength.

YOHANAN RAMATI, The Jerusalem Institute for Western Defense, Jerusalem.

### SLAP IN THE FACE

Sir — Jonathan Rosenblum, by the grace of *The Jerusalem Post*, has succeeded in bringing the violence and hatred of this particularly fanatic person towards secular Jews into our lives and our homes.

Since I've been a reader of the paper (1970), the *Jerusalem Post* has gone through many changes, depending on owners and editors, but always managed to present a relatively balanced basket of opinions.

Rosenblum's articles, from their

first appearance, were like a slap in the face. Unfortunately, his was not a one-time performance, as I hoped, but he became a "columnist" of the *Jerusalem Post*. It makes me wonder who else will receive the podium in your paper in the future.

Please refrain from hate-mongering.

SYLVIA GUR

Haifa.

### MEDIA CONFRONTATIONS

Sir — The greatest threat to Israel today is not from Arab terrorists, but our intolerance towards each other. The media plays a major role in fostering such confrontations.

Political leaders, prominent figures, journalists and TV personalities who condemn and deride major segments of the population because they don't like their politics create an atmosphere of bigotry and hatred.

We must stop wholesale, indiscriminate attacks on groups, like

"the religious," "the right/left wing," etc. It serves no other purpose than to divide us as a nation. Specific and accurate criticism of individuals, or activities is, of course, acceptable; damning major segments of the population because you disagree, is not. I hope the *Post* will set the example.

DR. MOSHE DANN, Jerusalem.

### BELLY DANCER

Sir — Sometimes one gets the impression we are living in Chelm. Two quotes from the article "Belly dancer sues Bassiouny for NIS1m," that appeared on the front page on December 9:

1) "She said she was no longer being hired to perform."

2) "The dancer, whose name is

barred from publication..." If her identity is not known, how do people know not to hire her?

If her identity is known, why is her name barred from publication?

SHOLOM J. PARNES, Efrat.

## FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On December 16, 1932, *The Palestine Post* reported a great fire in Jaffa where a lumber yard covering an area of several thousand square meters went up in flames.

The *Post* also described in great detail the Kirkuk-Haifa oil-carrying pipeline which was 1,200 miles long and had cost so far some £10 million.

50 years ago: On December 16, 1947, *The Palestine Post* reported that while Britain was worried about the "three-cornered conflict" developing in Palestine, the

UN Secretary-General, Trygve Lie, was still appealing in vain to the five nations making up the Partition Commission to name their representatives and to do so as quickly as possible.

All British police had left the Tel Aviv area.

A number of Jews and Arabs were killed and scores wounded in various incidents in Jerusalem, Haifa, Beersheba, Kfar Sava, Kfar Giltadi and on the Tel Aviv-Jaffa border.

Survivors of the Arab Legion attack on the Jewish Ben Shimon convoy in which 14 Jews were

killed and over 20 injured insisted that Arabs had opened fire without the slightest provocation. The unexpected attack gave them no time to defend themselves. An immediate withdrawal of the Arab Legion soldiers guarding Haifa Port, the oil docks and various parts of the town was demanded by Jewish authorities.

Large numbers of Arab Auxiliary Policemen were reported to have deserted their units, taking their arms and ammunition with them and joining Arab terrorists.

Alexander Zivliti

# Every house has a story

Now is the time for Polish Jews and their descendants to reclaim family property in Poland. Real estate prices are rising, and unclaimed property will eventually be expropriated, Aryeh Dean Cohen reports

Real estate in Poland is booming. But developers keep confronting the same problem: unclaimed property, much of it owned by Jews. Few Jews who came from Poland, or their descendants, know that they can take legal measures to reclaim valuable property. What's more, if they do not act soon, they may miss a golden opportunity to do so.

According to Margalit Rosenbuch, who heads Poldoor, a Tel-Aviv based company with offices in the US that helps those interested in taking legal steps to inherit such property, many Jews have mixed up the struggle over Polish Jewry's communal assets with the situation regarding private holdings.

"Following reports regarding the negotiations on the return of the assets, most Jews, mainly those living in the Diaspora, believed that they would be able to deal with matters of private property only after the status of these assets is settled. But the truth is actually the opposite," Rosenbuch, whose firm employs Polish lawyers here in Israel and in Poland, says.

Some have opted against seeking to inherit such property in Poland for other reasons. "There are many who just gave up emotionally," says Jerusalem lawyer Uri Huppert, who also handles such matters. "In other cases, over the years, the number of potential heirs increased to so many that unless they all agreed to file a claim, no one wanted to take the whole cumbersome matter on themselves."

Mariola Hawel-Tocker, a lawyer who represents the Polish embassy in Tel Aviv who has also handled many such cases, says that "anyone who has rights to the property can try to make a claim."

A form of real estate gridlock has given the situation in Poland new impetus. With international firms increasingly anxious to exploit renewed business interests in Poland under the new market-economy regime, real estate is suddenly hot there, especially since the country may enter the European Union sometime soon. But real estate agents keep coming up against the same problem: finding the original owners.

Many of the properties are registered under Jewish names. A look at the Cracow phone book from 1939 shows that many of the names were Jewish. The Polish land registry in many towns is similarly full of Jewish-owned property, whose status is waiting to be determined.

Polish authorities have been gradually taking steps to try to find the rightful owners by publishing advertisements seeking information about them, a step required by Polish law before property can be expropriated. When those owners — many of whom perished in the Holocaust — or their heirs fail to come forward, the property is expropriated and turned over to the local municipality for sale on the open market. While there are ways of legally fighting such expropriations, generally once the expropriation process is completed, it's very difficult to get the property back.

The story of privately owned real estate in Poland reflects the political turmoil of the area. After the war, the Poles cancelled everything the Nazis did regarding land registration, leaving behind what Huppert calls "a very, very organized" registration system, which

reverted to its prewar form. "It's amazing how Yekke-ish the Poles were in this regard," he says. They also passed a law at that time stating that any land unclaimed after 10 years would be considered abandoned, and would be confiscated by the government. The rule doesn't apply only to Jews. Thousands of Poles and Germans who owned property also disappeared or died in the war.

"At the end of the 1950s, there were very minor expropriations," Rosenbuch says. "The law wasn't changed, but nothing much was done. This is how, in 1989-90, when the Communist regime collapsed, most of the property was still registered under the names of the original Jewish owners. Then they returned to the old, postwar law, and started expropriating."

Under Communism, little private property was confiscated, but when the Communist regime fell, the new government started to privatize," Rosenbuch explains. "They moved towards a Western-style economy, and they had a problem. According to their statistics, about 40 percent of the real estate in Cracow and 60% in Lodz is still registered to people who have not come forward. Based on the names, many are Jews. In other words, throughout Poland there is real estate registered under the names of the Jewish owners, and no one is coming forward to make claims because they are simply unaware. People don't know it exists, that it's possible to inherit it. They think the Communists expropriated it all. Now they lump it together with community property, and sit and wait for it to be returned."

There are entire apartment blocks, particularly in the big cities, which were owned by either one person or family, or partners," Rosenbuch, who launched Poldoor when she acted to inherit her family's property in Poland, says that the Polish land registry contains records indicating division of ownership, purchase dates, partners' names, etc. from before the war.

"People think that Poland is some far-off, alien place, but all the documents exist in Poland," she says. "In many cases, the property is registered under Jewish names." She pulls out a photocopy of a land registry document indicating a property owned by a Bernard Grossman of Cracow. "Where is he?" she asks. "Where are his heirs? I can show you many more of these."

Many of the unclaimed properties are worth \$400,000-500,000, some more, some less. "All the heirs have to do is to have the Polish court issue a writ of inheritance, just as in any other country," Rosenbuch says. "People think it's different because it's Poland, but it's not."

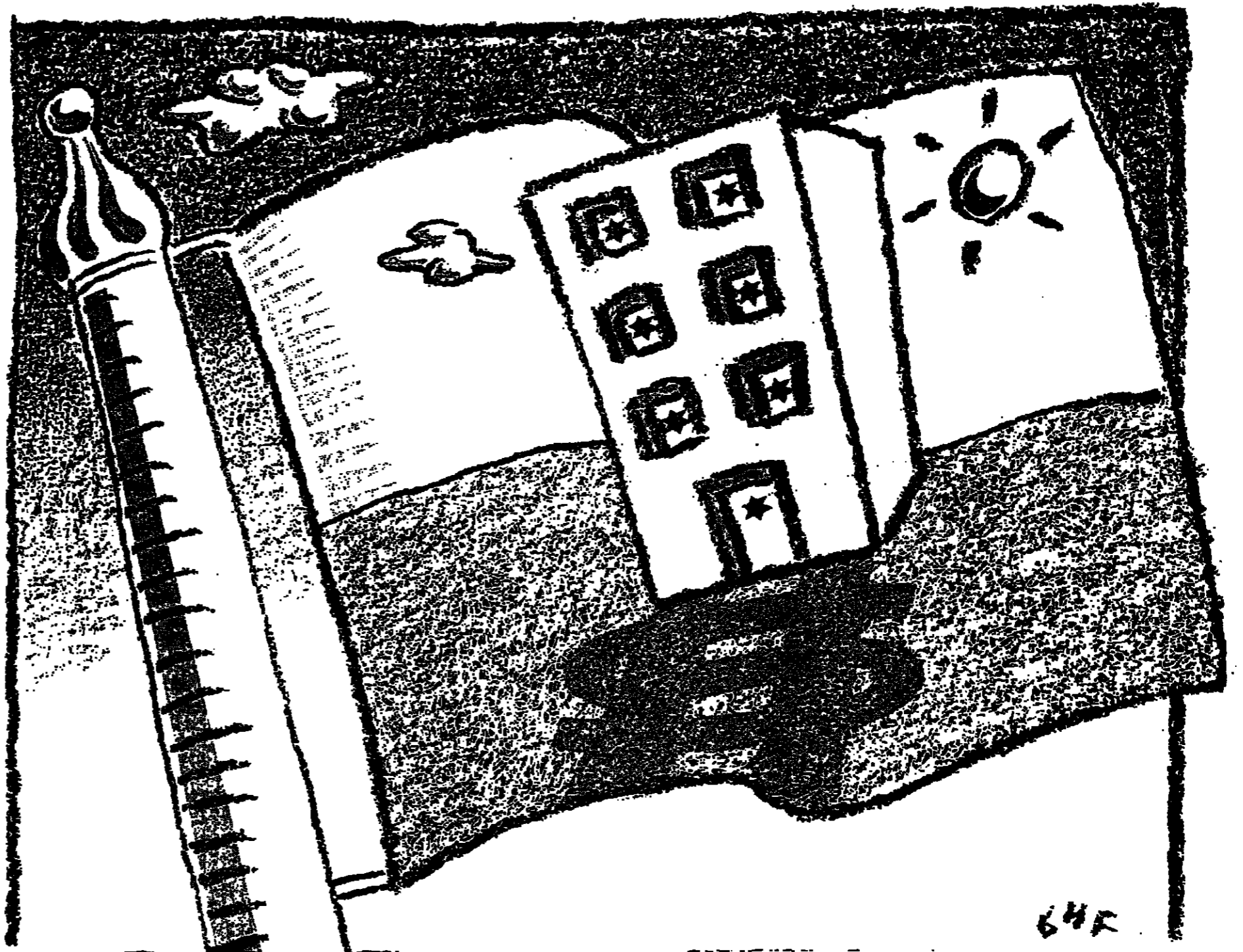
Time is of the essence, according to Rosenbuch, who believes that "in a short time, everything will be expropriated."

Is your family's property in Poland in danger of expropriation? There is no way of knowing, says Hawel-Tocker. She denies there is any government rush to confiscate land. "There are no lists," she says in her Tel Aviv office. "But that does not mean that there are no expropriations going on — there are." Still, she says, "it's important to do something now — the longer you neglect your affairs, the less chance you have of getting anything. Let's say a municipality decides to build a road — they won't wait for you."

Generally, the city authorities move to expropriate a building only if it requires repairs, or if the site is needed to pave a road or put up another facility, Hawel-Tocker says. "The municipality wants to get something out of the deal. But it's impossible to know ahead of time without investigating the matter thoroughly," she notes.

Hawel-Tocker says that complicating matters is a civil code stating anyone holding exclusive rights to a piece of property for 20 years has the right of ownership. "So let's say there were two partners, and one of them took care of matters pertaining to the property after the war, and made all the arrangements, paid taxes, etc. That person's heirs can now come forward and say: 'We deserve to have the whole property,' even though they only are registered as owning a quarter of it. And I have such cases. There are Jewish families where there are very unpleasant arguments about this. It happens frequently with families where some survived, or never went back to Poland, and others did and appointed someone to take care of the property. Those arguments end up in court."

The municipalities also exploit this law for expropriations, she says, especially in cases where



ing to Rosenbuch, who believes that "in a short time, everything will be expropriated."

city-appointed "administrations" have been running buildings for 20 years, and no heir has come forward. Providing the necessary documents is also not always easy. Polish courts can facilitate issuing the equivalent of a death certificate for individuals who died in the Holocaust, for example, or whose whereabouts are otherwise unknown. But if someone came to Israel before the creation of the state and changed his or her name, there may be no record of the name change available here, she says. Polish courts are "very strict" in examining documents, and there have been many cases where individuals tried to pass themselves off as someone else.

The strictness cuts both ways. She recalls several cases in which she was able to reclaim Jewish assets which had been expropriated because the municipalities involved did make a serious enough effort to locate the heirs. At present, no compensation is available for property that was expropriated, she says, but such cases can be challenged in court, where the verdict "can go either way."

A bill on the issue is under consideration in the Polish legislature, but even if it is passed, it will have to deal with other groups besides the Jews. Nobody seems in a hurry to get it passed since the Polish government "would simply go bankrupt" if it tried to compensate everyone, Hawel-Tocker says, but Jewish groups have also vowed to fight for rights to Jewish private property for which there are no heirs.

Warsaw has its own set of property rules. Anyone who had property in the ghetto has practically no chance of getting anything back, since the area was completely destroyed and what is there now is nothing like what existed previously, Hawel-Tocker says. However, Rosenbuch says there

is still some hope. "In Warsaw, there is a reparations law which still doesn't have teeth, but there have already been several proposals. Anyone who does not have a writ of inheritance will not be able to file a claim. There is also no guarantee anything will happen in this regard."

Huppert says that a 1946 law states that only those who had property within the municipal boundaries of Warsaw in 1939 — an area much smaller than today — are eligible to file a claim. But Rosenbuch says that anyone who went to Warsaw after the war and took legal action can deal with their claims today.

While the property is clearly there for the claiming, before potential heirs start thinking about redesigning the living room, they should be aware of certain pitfalls. First and foremost is the fact that just about everyone involved also has their own interests at heart.

Lawyers like Rosenbuch, Huppert and Hawel-Tocker admit they take the cases as business propositions, although all three appear to also be keenly aware of the historic importance of their work, and the cases' emotional impact on their clients.

Dozens of Israeli lawyers say they handle such claims. Some maintain you don't need a Polish lawyer, but others disagree, and Rosenbuch says her company uses "only top-flight Polish lawyers." Those interested in pursuing their family's property in Poland should be careful — there is no shortage of charlatans anxious to make a quick buck off innocent Jews too emotionally involved in the matter to care whether their lawyers are actually accomplishing anything.

Hawel-Tocker knows of at least a handful of organizations or lawyers here who advertised their services and charged survivors or their heirs \$100-200 in "registration fees."

"Most of those people were left with only their dreams," she says. After getting short shrift from an Israeli lawyer, a man we shall call "Haim" [he asked not to be identified] and his family decided to take the matter into their own hands. "We thought that my family had some assets in Poland, which we believed had belonged to my grandfather, who was a wealthy man, and his brother," he recalls.

"We never thought about it until the Communist regime collapsed, but when that happened, somebody in the family brought the matter up, and we had some documents that we got through a local Israeli lawyer, who was a relative. He actually did nothing, and took a relatively large amount of

money. He made several trips to Poland, and gave us no report and made no progress."

When Haim's relatives traveled to Poland in search of their roots a few years ago, they enlisted the help of a local lawyer in Cracow who was able to help them reclaim several buildings. Several others had already been expropriated.

Haim, who doesn't understand why Jewish organizations have not been more active in helping Jews pursue private property claims, traveled to Poland himself four times. He says the entire legal process to inherit the property for his family took about two years, and cost several thousand dollars.

See POLAND, Page 12

## Property owners' list

- The following partial list contains the names of individuals who have unclaimed property registered in the Polish land registry. They or their heirs should contact a lawyer to try to reclaim their assets. (Supplied by Poldoor International Ltd.)
- |                    |                         |                 |                  |                     |                  |                  |                  |                   |                   |                    |                      |                   |                         |                        |                 |                     |                       |                    |                     |                      |                   |                      |                        |                   |                    |               |                  |                   |                   |                        |                     |                   |                         |                     |                    |                 |                  |                    |                   |                      |                   |                   |                  |                        |                              |                          |                    |                    |                        |                           |                   |                        |                        |                       |                       |                      |                  |                    |                   |                      |                             |                         |                     |                   |                          |                                       |                   |                  |                   |                   |                |                        |                |                |                  |               |                    |                 |                    |                     |                      |                       |                            |                      |                       |                       |                       |                        |                  |                                |                     |                  |                |                      |                     |                    |                |                   |                   |                    |                   |                      |                     |                   |                   |                        |                 |                  |                  |                      |                      |                       |                 |                   |                  |                    |                      |                      |                       |                       |                  |                 |                 |                       |                    |                    |                     |                  |                    |                       |                 |                      |                  |                    |                       |                   |                   |                    |                    |                     |                   |                    |                     |                      |                |                |                                  |                          |                       |                      |                      |                      |                    |                      |                  |                    |                       |                    |                         |                           |                     |                       |                   |                  |                 |                        |                   |
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| 1. Englander Izzak | Englander Rozalia (Roz) | Englander Moses | Englander Helena | 2. Grossman Bernard | 3. Panzer Mendel | 4. Panzer Hirsch | 5. Bannet Henryk | 6. Horner Salomea | 7. Feiwish Ruchla | 8. Grucher Salomea | 9. Landau Josef Saul | 10. Kragen Henryk | 11. Mikolajewicz Israel | 12. Frankel Aleksander | 13. Pannz Jakob | 14. Pannz Ferdynand | 15. Stawsk Bronislawa | 16. Horner Salomea | 17. Rosenfeld Izzak | 18. Schrager Zygmunt | 19. Sandauer Adam | 20. Schrager Zygmunt | 21. Silberstein Regina | 22. Vogler Szymon | 23. Rapoport Jozef | 24. Salz Leon | 25. Kerner Asher | 26. Kreisler Nina | 27. Zeligner Laja | 28. Horowitz Katarzyna | 29. Weisman Rachela | 30. Bergman Chaja | 31. Werschebaum Jachely | 32. Lachner Hermita | 33. Kerner Salomon | 34. Kerner Lola | 35. Kerner Asher | 36. Ginkold Hirsch | 37. Laner Salomea | 38. Blumenthal Golda | 39. Gruber Leonor | 40. Landner Rytka | 41. Furman Lidia | 42. Fruchendler Gimpel | 43. Morgenberson Maksymilian | 44. Aleksandrowicz Jozef | 45. Gottlieb Chaja | 46. Herxszand Anna | 47. Landau Maksymilian | 48. Aleksandrowicz Ignacy | 49. Siodrak Jakob | 50. Szapirowa Antonina | 51. Alexander Michelle | 52. Alexander Amnette | 53. Rosenbaum Gustawa | 54. Branssein Szymon | 55. Jeter Szymon | 56. Wisniter Majer | 57. Dembiter Sara | 58. Immergluck Tauba | 59. Nierenstein Mozes Majer | 60. Jakober Cyna Ruchla | 61. Filderman Mozes | 62. Szwarc Szymon | 63. Pomeranz Leja (Lola) | 64. Giger-Widowska Miriam z.d. Herman | 65. Szwarc Helena | 66. Ringel Dawid | 67. Anderman Rena | 68. Katz Etrolima | 69. Katz Tanby | 70. Katz-Gelles Estera | 71. Katz Perla | 72. Katz Dawid | 73. Katz Mojzesz | 74. Katz Izak | 75. Vog-Liaug Sala | 76. Ferus Jozef | 77. Eisner Mojzesz | 78. Fruermaner Gitl | 79. Weinstok Janicki | 80. Feigenbaum Marcus | 81. Feigenbaum Jozef Dawid | 82. Feigenbaum Chaim | 83. Feigenbaum Heirsh | 84. Feigenbaum Pinkus | 85. Feigenbaum Sussla | 86. Feigenbaum Chaskel | 87. Haimer Maria | 88. Feigenbaum z.d. Feigenbaum | 89. Eiteschik Chana | 90. Gruber Jozef | 91. Keil Berta | 92. Rozenzweig Izzak | 93. Rozenzweig Maks | 94. Minenberg Sura | 95. Ruchla Jan | 96. Minberg Abram | 97. Kohna Malwina | 98. Gajdzka Ruchla | 99. Landau Ernest | 100. Eiteschik Majer | 101. Gerner Salomea | 102. Faber Stefan | 103. Haas Paulina | 104. Weitenfeld Gustav | 105. Frish Hana | 106. Frish Leiba | 107. Frish Dawid | 108. Herxszal Gustaw | 109. Goldstein Dawid | 110. Puczeznik Samuel | 111. Reif Jakob | 112. Barel Ruchla | 113. Barel Maria | 114. Giejzman Hana | 115. Zimmerman Zofia | 116. Jakubowska Bena | 117. Rozenzweig Nauka | 118. Rozenzweig Adolf | 119. Faber Maria | 120. Eiba Jozef | 121. Haas Adolf | 122. Nussbaum Rachela | 123. Tauber Schaja | 124. Muhlstein Eva | 125. Herman Rozalia | 126. Traub Fryda | 127. Barel Maurycy | 128. Winkensfeld Resi | 129. Amser Haim | 130. Schonberg Izzak | 131. Gerson Abel | 132. Fridman Lidia | 133. Goldstein Regina | 134. Taubel Maria | 135. Knebs Helena | 136. Giejzman Sura | 137. Kreisler Nina | 138. Schenker Dawid | 139. Schner Jozef | 140. Klingner Liba | 141. Filler Katylda | 142. Filler Michayla | 143. Ban Jozef | 144. Bak Piotr | 145. Szwercenberg-Czernowa Irena | 146. Berzabkowna Natalia | 147. Eberstark Markus | 148. Herstein Marcus | 149. Herstein Natana | 150. Herstein Michal | 151. Herstein Leon | 152. Herstein Natana | 153. Gellis Ruth | 154. Nussbaum Rita | 155. Herstein Rozalia | 156. Herstein Dora | 157. Linkowska Gronowia | 158. Szwercenberg-Grnowia | 159. Fribberg Perla | 160. Fribberg Abraham | 161. Barel Ruchla | 162. Barel Maria | 163. Malgorzata | 164. Rozenfeld Benzion | 165. Haimer Mosze |
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## How to stake a claim for property in Poland

That old piece of paper locked inside a jewelry box for dozens of years, or a faded picture left behind by an uncle — if someone only remembers a street address, it would be a good idea to try to get them to remember what cross street was nearby, or a description of how many floors the building had, or any other information about the property.

"The more information I have, the faster and easier I can work," she explained, adding that it's important to specify whether someone died in the Holocaust, because there are special court procedures for such cases.

And she warns not to throw out documents related to the property that might look unimportant. "Sometimes a single number on one of those documents can be vital," she said.

Don't have any documents? Don't be discouraged. Many, if not all, of the necessary documents can be obtained in Poland, Poldoor's Margalit Rosenbuch insists. Even letters sent between family members which mention property can be useful, she says.

Once you've gathered all your documents, you should choose a lawyer carefully. There are some lawyers who handle cases directly, and other companies with representatives in Poland. There are many lawyers who claim they handle such cases in Israel, but clients should be careful with whom they do business.

Try to reach a clear contract regarding exactly what is to be done, and if possible try to set specific dates for receiving information. If you don't receive ongoing reports and documents your lawyer may be stringing you along, wasting your time and money. Remember that since Israeli lawyers are unable to handle these matters in Poland, you'll need a Polish lawyer. So make sure the local lawyer you deal with has representation in Poland fully authorized to act in that country.

Clients should also make sure that their representative in Poland is licensed to act in the town where the house is located, Rosenbuch points out. There is also no need to pay any "registration fees" in order to be included on any kind of "list," a scam that reportedly has been run in Israel before. It costs a minimum of a few hundred dol-

lars to make an initial inquiry into the status of the property, and a good deal more to complete procedures to reclaim it. The amount depends on the value of the property, the complexity of the case, and on your agreement with your lawyer.

Above all, be patient. Some cases can take a few years to complete, some less.

The following firms provided information for this story and deal with legal matters relating to private property in Poland:

Poldoor, 17 Kaplan Street, Tel Aviv 64734; tel. (03) 691-5597. The company has also opened an office in New York, tel. 212-532-5740. There are also plans to open offices in Los Angeles, Brussels and Paris.

Mariola Hawel-Tocker, 52 Nahalat Binyamin Street, Tel Aviv 65154; tel. (03) 517-3704 E-mail: tocker@ibm.net

Uri J. Huppert, 23 Herta Street, Jerusalem 94581; tel. (02) 624-8494, 624-8485.

## None of our business

I'm as interested in the details of the private lives of the rich and famous as the next person. As a regular reader of gossip columns and *People* magazine, I don't have a problem with this brand of journalism. Furthermore, as a citizen of Israel, I believe that the First Couple's personal spending habits are supported by the public till, it's a public matter. We have a right to know, for example, who pays for Sara's secretaries, her car and driver, and her hairdresser.

But, despite my firm belief in accountability, free speech and good gossip, I still found myself profoundly uncomfortable with the now famous nine-page exposé in *Yediot Aharonot*.

Defending Sara Netanyahu doesn't come naturally to me. It's simply not something I ever thought I'd find myself doing — and not just because I don't share this particular woman's taste in clothes or

standards of cleanliness. But what bothered me about the *Yediot* article was not its laundry list of Sara Netanyahu's transgressions, but its grand self-justification. The piece didn't mere-

ly recount well-worn tales of Sara's escapades, it declared how truly important these juicy bits are. The newspaper lectured to us at the beginning of the article that we should be vitally concerned about Sara Netanyahu's personality quirks because "her outbursts, attacks, and bizarre behavior create an unstable atmosphere around a man whose every decision has a dramatic effect on our lives."

In essence, what the journalists who wrote the piece are saying is that collecting dirt about Mrs. Netanyahu is a holy mission, because, in their expert opinion, this nutty woman is preventing her husband from doing a good job. We should care about her behavior, they maintain, because the dynamics of the Netanyahu marriage are a matter of national security.

Baloney. The real reason Sara Netanyahu creates a public buzz, just as Hillary Clinton, Nancy Reagan and even Paula Ben-Gurion did before her, is because we citizens of a democratic country do not like to see anyone wielding power over the person — whether president or prime minister — who has power over us. That is why we are most comfortable with wives of leaders, who appear (at least publicly) to be self-effacing and accommodate their husband's every demand, wives like Sonia Peres or Barbara Bush.

But we have to face the fact that the very definition of marriage is power-sharing. Sharing one's life is sharing power. If we want completely independent leaders, we should elect only single men or women to lead us.

But if we prefer married people, with obligations to a spouse and a family, we have to accept the fact that there is

going to be competition for our leader's time and energy, and that their spouses will, to a greater or lesser degree, influence them. Few people, least of all, journalists, can presume to interfere with these internal dynamics, unless, perhaps, it becomes clear that the prime minister's spouse is whispering "Go to war with Syria" in his ear as he sleeps.

Whether or not Sara Netanyahu's behavior towards her husband and his staff in the *Yediot* article is "bizarre" or "unstable" is purely subjective. Some of what is described as "bizarre" seems understandable: the "irrational jealousy" towards Bibi's female colleagues described in the article, for example, doesn't seem so irrational when one takes into consideration Netanyahu's well-publicized infidelity.

And many of Sara's outbursts seem to stem from her attempts to carve out islands of family life for her two young sons in the stormy seas of her husband's schedule. Even if she competes for her husband's attention in a thoroughly unattractive manner, her reasons seem to me to be far from irrational.

But let's suppose for a moment, that Sara Netanyahu is, in fact, certifiable — that her reported obsession with clean shoes and well-packed suitcases is a symptom of a deep psychosis. Does that mean that her husband can't function as an effective prime minister?

A look back through history shows that a stable spouse was never a job requirement for outstanding leaders. In US history, the most memorable example was Mary Todd Lincoln, a woman who was a terrible spendthrift during her husband's term in office, who was unstable, so emotionally disturbed that she ended up being institutionalized later in life. Somehow, despite the pressures at home, Lincoln managed to hold the situation together well enough to guide his country through the Civil War, a period of history arguably as bloody, stormy, difficult, traumatic and threatening to the US as the Middle East is today. Similarly, I'm sure there have been plenty of corrupt and irresponsible leaders whose wives were absolute saints.

Few of us would remain in an unbearable marriage. Perhaps our prime minister is henpecked and harassed, and only stays married to Sara out of political considerations. Or perhaps he receives a degree of loyalty and nurturing from this woman at times when it seems as if the whole world — the international community, the opposition, and even his own party and ministers — seem to want to see him fall.

Maybe, maybe not. The hard truth is that only the two people inside this marriage know the answer for sure. And you know what? Speaking both as a journalist and a citizen of the State of Israel, I truly believe that the solution to this riddle is none of my business.

**What the journalists are saying is that collecting dirt about Mrs. Netanyahu is a holy mission**

### Homefront



Allison K. Sammer

# A geriatric Japan learns to cope

By JOSEPH COLEMAN

Shizue Sugimura is training for Japan's mega-industry of the future: the elderly.

The college senior, who just landed a job in a sparkling new nursing home, spent a recent afternoon learning how to spoonfeed rice to the bedridden, give them sips of tea and brush their teeth.

"This society is aging faster than any other country in the world, so there is quite a lot of demand for this type of industry," said Sugimura, 22.

With the world's longest average lifespans and one of its lowest birthrates, Japan is expected to displace Sweden by 2005 as home to the planet's oldest population.

The trend is already straining pension and health care systems, and Japan's economy will increasingly feel the pinch of caring for more elderly with fewer workers.

The aging process has also brought the Japanese face to face with some thorny social questions, such as the clash between women's work and family roles and the changing obligations of children to their aging parents. To many, the changes signal a risky venture into uncharted waters.

People older than 65 already make up 15 percent of the population and the ratio is expected to hit 20 percent by 2005 and 33 percent by 2050. They are living longer, too — females born in 1996 are projected to live an average of more than 86 years and the males are expected to average just over 80, both world highs.

"In the early 21st century, the extent of Japan's full-blown elderly society will be something that no other country in the world has ever experienced," the government said in a report this year.

But for Sugimura and others like her, aging Japan means opportunity.

"I've done volunteer work visiting nursing homes since high school and I enjoyed it," said Sugimura, who started her new job in April. "For Japan, this work is

going to expand." The company training her, Benesse Corp., is banking on that.

A publisher specializing in correspondence courses, Benesse is one of a growing number of corporations branching into the elder-care business.

The company has trained 2,500 people in a four-year-old "home helper" course, and the number of graduates this year is expected to double. The company also runs its own home helper service for people caring for elderly relatives at home.

At a recent session at the company's offices in western Tokyo, about 45 students — half of them training to take care of their own aging parents — scooped spoonfuls of rice and fish into each other's mouths and gingerly brushed each other's teeth as Chopin played in the background.

"Years ago, there was no concept of this as a service industry," said instructor Hiroe Nagao, a nurse. "But now regular businesses like Benesse are entering the field."

Encouraging companies to get into the elderly business is part of a government plan for a huge increase — in some cases doubling — in services and facilities for the over-65 population by 1999. Further increases are expected to follow.

One way the government expects this to work without bankrupting its budget is shifting the costs to the consumer. Officials say the social welfare system set up in the 1950s should be updated to reflect the current older generation's greater wealth.

"Some of them still get paid or have assets that they can use to live out the rest of their lives," said Naoki Miyamoto, an official in the policy planning division of the Health and Welfare Ministry.

The process has already begun. Health care for the elderly used to be free, but beginning in 1984 the elderly had to pay 10 percent of their health costs. That was recently raised to 20 percent. So far, the government has not faced any



Simulating old age: Students in a "home helper" course have lunch blindfolded during a class in Tokyo. Half of the students are training to take care of their own aging parents. (AP)

widespread public opposition.

Another major factor the Japanese are counting on to smooth the transition is people like Kiyoko Hashimoto. She's training at Benesse not for a job, but for what she figures is her fate: taking care of aging relatives.

"My parents are getting old, and in the spring my father got sick," said Hashimoto, 41, whose father is in his early 70s — and whose grandfather is 102. "That's when I thought that maybe in the future, it would be helpful for me to learn about nursing." Japan has few nursing homes, and most people assume their children will care for them when they get old. More than 50 percent of the elderly live with their middle-age children or other relatives, and most of those who live on their own are under an hour's drive from their children.

But some say government plans are unrealistic in expecting families will assume the growing burden of caring for Japan's older generations.

The government still thinks that co-residence is Japan's latent asset, but it's not true," said Naohiro Ogawa, an expert on aging at Nihon University. "Family structure sets Japan apart from the West, but the generational gaps in terms of values are quite serious."

At the core of the debate are Japan's primary care-givers: women. Housewives are typically expected to raise children with minimal help from anyone else, then spend their middle age taking care of their husbands' parents.

But women are increasingly turning to careers, resulting in the decreasing fertility rate that has helped speed the aging of Japan. Women average only 1.42 chil-

dren, down from a high of 5 in the late 1940s.

Critics like Ogawa say such trends make it increasingly unlikely that families will be able — or willing — to take up the additional burdens of the elderly population. Many Japanese, however, still take for granted that they will have to take care of their aging relatives.

Hashimoto said that with her parents' living hours away in distant Aomori in northern Japan, she and her siblings will have to rotate shifts living in with her parents if they get sick.

But even in Hashimoto's family, generational shifts are evident. She doesn't expect the same care from her own four kids.

"All my children are independent in a kind of selfish way," she said. "If they want to do it, that's fine, but it's not like they should have to or should be forced." (AP)

## Time for alarm bells, not wedding bells

**Dear Ruthie,**  
After living together for four years, my boyfriend and I became engaged to be married. We were very happy about the decision. All of our friends and family were very supportive. Straight away, he bought me a diamond ring, and we began preparing for the event, which we scheduled for three months hence, to give our parents the time they requested to order invitations and plan a guest list.

My problem is that with each passing day since our official engagement, our relations have become increasingly strained. We did discuss the situation and concluded that it's the result of prewedding jitters.

Talking about the problem helped me somewhat, but I am not sure how much it helped my fiancé. For, not long after, he

became impotent. I do not know whether to suggest that he go to a doctor, since I am afraid to hurt him — particularly now, when we haven't been getting along so well.

Nor do I know whether this is a problem I should consider before actually marrying him. Naturally, I haven't discussed this with anyone. What do you think?

At a Loss Over Lover's Libido  
Somewhere in England

Dear Ruthie-Lois,  
This is definitely a problem you should consider before marrying. And not merely because of your physical needs.

In the first place, the fact that you are hesitant about discussing it with him — the man with whom you've shared a bed for four years, and the one with whom you intend to spend the rest of your life — bodes ill. Your fear of hurting his

feelings indicates that you sense an inability on his part to listen to anything you might have to say on the subject.

Secondly, though prenuptial jitters usually constitute an integral part of wedding preparations, what you describe sounds more like a symptom of genuine trouble. Assuming your boyfriend's sudden impotence is not the result of a physical illness or physiological impairment, it should set off alarm bells, rather than wedding bells. Impotence is one example of the way in which the human body gives outward expression to internal strife.

In this man's case, the fear of

making a final commitment may be so "potent" as to render his gender temporarily "out of order."

The fact that you mention how supportive all your friends and family have been indicates that the engagement was somehow related to expectations from others. The immediate purchase of a diamond ring — an external symbol of the commitment — may have had something to do with this as well.

What both you and your fiancé must first examine is whether fear of commitment is at the root of his temporary problem; then you must find out whether it is a general panic, or specifically related to his relations with you. This requires a joint effort, just

the way that making a decision to get married did.

So difficult a task is this, however, that it is unlikely to be undertaken and completed in the short time before your wedding without professional help. Failure to address the situation now — before proceeding with the festivities — can only postpone the task at hand, not make it go away. For, even if the physical aspect corrects itself in the near future, the underlying issues will not simply disappear.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: ruthie@post.co.il

**Grapevine will return on Friday.**

## POLAND

Continued from Page 11

"My advice is that if you think you have some property, take action as quickly as possible. Time is against us," he says. Rising property values mean rising inheritance and other taxes, he says, but overall, "I can't complain. I think it was fair."

Those opting to hire Polish lawyers in Poland should be very careful, too. Supervision of the legal profession is somewhat lax, and so-called "legal assistants" advertising throughout Poland often are not authorized to take the type of action required in such cases, Hawel-Toker says.

The experience of pursuing the claim in Poland often yields far more than just buildings. Haim's trip gave him and his family a chance to reconnect with their past, he says, and "it was as if God was directing me to things. I met people who knew my grandfather, who was a very generous man. I

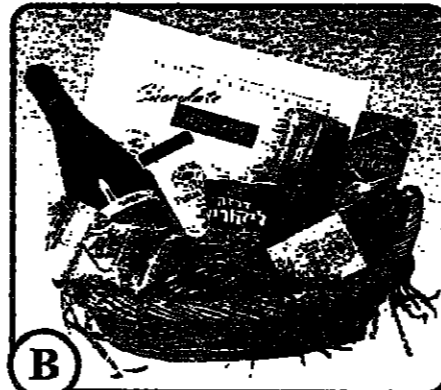
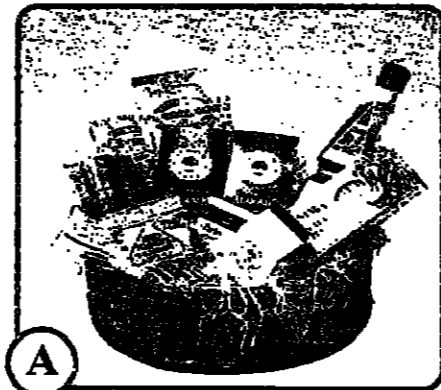
found out that he had supported an orphanage, and we met some of the people who grew up in it. One man said to me that he was happy to see that a relative had survived. When another told me that my grandfather was a holy man, I cried."

Hawel-Toker recalls one client who came to Poland with his son to pursue a claim on a house in Kalisz. "He remembered the address and went to see the house, and when he got there asked the residents if he could see the apartment where he grew up. Then he asked me if he could go up to the attic.

"He went up alone and remembered the place where he and his father, two days before the start of the war, hid money and securities in a newspaper. He came down to me with the newspaper, which was in Yiddish. The money and the securities are worthless now, but they remained exactly as they had been 50 years ago. It was very moving. Every house has its story."

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## November CPI plunges 0.3%

### Economist Ben-Shahar: Inflation may drop to 5% by next year

By DAVID HARRIS

Inflation this year is heading for eight percent, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics, following yesterday's publication of the November consumer price index, which registered a fall of 0.3%.

Within that figure the housing index fell 1.5% and the cost of fruit and vegetables by 3.2%. Economists had predicted the CPI would show an increase of 0.3% - 0.5%. The actual figure was the lowest since May 1992, but the bureau last night warned against being overly optimistic.

"This is only one month and should not be taken in isolation," said bureau spokesman David Neumann.

October's CPI increased 1.2% and economists say the two must be seen together. The average for the last two months was close to 0.5%.

The key contributors in both months were the housing and fruit and vegetable indexes. Economist Haim Ben-Shahar pointed out that without these two indicators the October and November CPIs would have been far less volatile, and he called for a new method of calculating these indexes.

The housing index is already

being reviewed by the bureau but Ben-Shahar is calling for the fruit and vegetable index to be based on a 12-month cycle rather than the existing month-by-month format.

Ben-Shahar predicted that 1998 inflation could well fall between 4% and 5% if the correct government policies are followed. This means keeping to tight fiscal policy and not allowing public sector

wage agreements to deliver real increases. This, accompanied by ongoing unemployment will in all probability lead to low inflation.

Ben-Shahar is basing this analysis on the events of 1991-92. In 1991, economic conditions were similar to today and inflation ended the year at 18%, but policy changes brought 1992 inflation down to 9.4%. Ben-Shahar added

that since then, inflation has remained well below the 1991 level.

The housing index decline was the result of a 1.7% decline in the cost of buying an apartment, while rent went down 0.1%.

Fruits and vegetables dropped in price by an average 3.2% because of seasonal factors, according to the bureau. Principal changes included an 8% decline in fresh

vegetables, and with fresh fruit down 1.5%. These were offset to some extent by a 1.3% rise in the prices of frozen vegetables.

Education, culture and entertainment costs fell 0.3% last month, with a similar drop in the transport and communications index.

Otherwise, there were increases in the costs of clothing and footwear (5.4%), foods other than fruits and vegetables (0.2%), health care (0.2%) and household essential items (0.5%).

The Manufacturers Association issued a statement last night suggesting the current volatility in the CPI, coupled with the likely inflation rate for 1997, point to a central bank monetary policy that does not work.

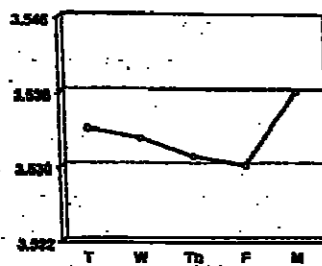
One of the major factors in inflationary economies - wage increases - will be the subject of the first discussion between the Treasury and Histadrut this afternoon in the new round of wage negotiations. Treasury wage director Yossi Kucik and Shlomo Shani, head of the Histadrut trade union section, are to attempt to reach a settlement for the next two years.

The government said it is determined not to offer real wage rises, but to set a maximum increase in line with the CPI.

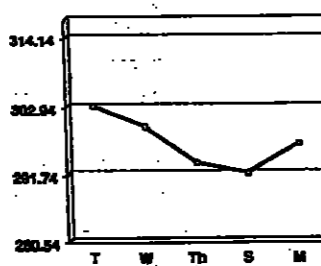
## MARKETS

in brief

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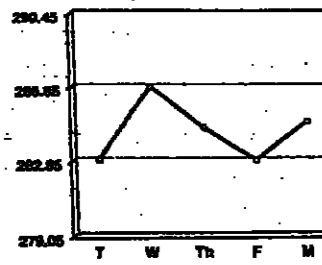


MAOF INDEX



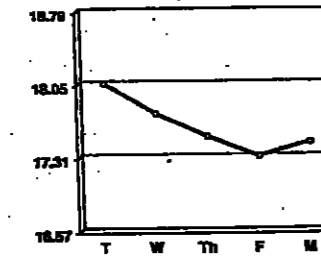
GOLD

\$ per ounce

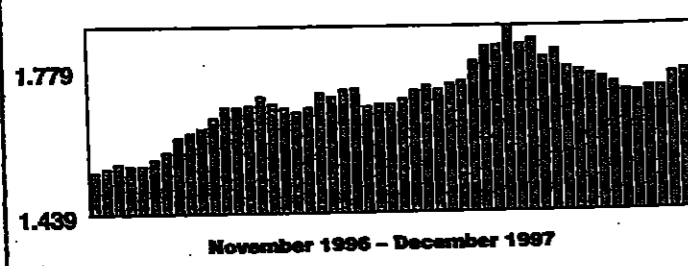


OIL

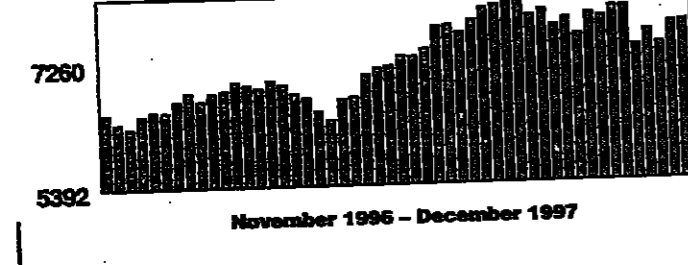
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



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### Credit Suisse praises Israeli liberalization

The private banking arm of Credit Suisse expressed its satisfaction yesterday with the steps that the Israeli authorities have taken to liberalize financial markets.

In a statement, the bank said that it "has been impressed by the decisiveness with which the Israeli government and the Bank of Israel have pushed ahead with their reforms."

The bank said that the free convertibility of the shekel and the removal of barriers to capital exports will give Israeli investors free access to the international markets. Dan Gerstenfeld

### Treasury produces first-ever markets' report

The supervisor of capital markets and insurance in the Finance Ministry published yesterday for the first time an extensive annual report for 1996. The paper covers in depth the capital market, government capital raising, insurance, pension funds, mutual funds and saving plans.

The report also will be available at the ministry's Internet site and from now on will be published annually. Dan Gerstenfeld

## OECD predicts lower world growth on back of Far East crisis

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development expects tumbling currencies and rising interest rates in Asia to dampen growth in the world's most industrialized countries both this year and next, and to reduce inflation in 1998.

Growth throughout the OECD's members - 29 of the world's largest free-market economies - is expected to be 2.5 percent in 1998, the OECD's chief economist, Ignacio Visco, said yesterday as he presented the organization's semi-annual economic outlook.

That's down from the 2.9% it was expecting before Asia's financial turmoil spread to Korea.

Depending on the effect of reduced trade caused by slowing economies in Asia, the OECD said, its members' growth could decline to as low as 1.7% in 1998. That worst case can probably be avoided, because European and US authorities are likely to compensate by slowing down planned increases in interest rates, Visco said.

"There are various ways of

compensation, such as easier monetary conditions," Visco said.

For the US in particular, which has been the fastest-growing major economy in the world, the Asia crisis may help growth slow down to a more sustainable pace.

"This might call for some postponement of any interest rate increases envisaged before the Asian crisis came up," Visco said.

The effect on growth will be smaller, with Visco saying growth in most Pacific Rim countries. Without any specific fiscal or monetary policies intended to balance lower exports, Japan's economy could shrink 0.1% in 1997, instead of growing 0.5%. In 1998, growth could be restrained to 0.3% from 1.7%.

The OECD's Pacific members are Japan, Australia, South Korea and New Zealand.

Visco said Japan's government should consider slowing its policy of cutting its budget deficit, and should offer a permanent tax cut. The effect forecast for Europe is smaller, with Visco saying growth throughout the European Union being 2.6 or 2.7%, instead of the 2.8% the OECD is predicting before the Asian financial turmoil spread to Korea.

"The trade effects on Europe just aren't that big," Visco said. They could still be enough to jeopardize some countries' efforts to cut their deficits enough to qualify for the European Union's single currency. Many European countries, particularly France, are counting on accelerating growth to get their deficits down to 3% of gross domestic product, the level required to join the economic and monetary union.

The OECD's outlook was written based on events up to early November and included the impact of tumbling currencies and financial problems in Thailand and Malaysia. (Bloomberg)

## Eizenstat: Change inflation psyche

By DAN GERSTENFELD

The Israeli public must change its attitude toward inflation if it wants Israel to become a full member in the club of industrialized countries, US Undersecretary of State for Economic Affairs Stuart Eizenstat said yesterday.

"In order for that to happen, it is important that inflationary psychology change. Knowing that Israel had 800 percent, 900% inflation in the mid-80s, many people here are too satisfied with having 10% or 11% inflation. That's not acceptable, and in the end that will retard growth and development. So, what really needs to happen here is a change in inflationary psychology," Eizenstat told Israel Radio.

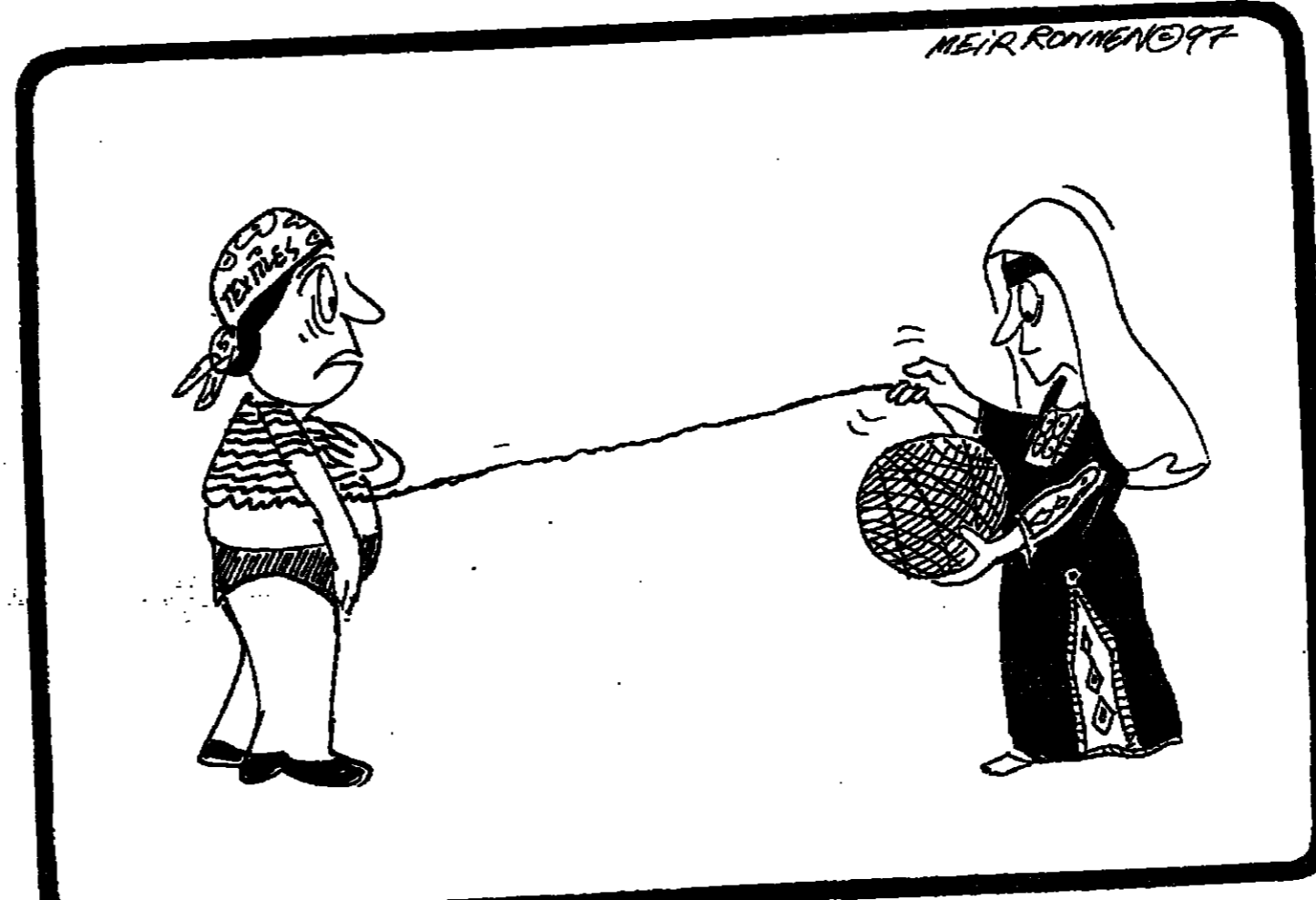
He said that the government should run a public

campaign to lower inflation expectations in a way that a double-digit annual inflation number would be unacceptable.

Eizenstat met yesterday with Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel. Developments in the Israeli economy were discussed. Further talks will be held today, when the Joint Economic Development Group holds its semi-annual meeting.

Eizenstat heads the American delegation, which includes senior economists, experts from the economic division of the State Department, and representatives of the US Embassy.

The group will receive a review of macro-economic policy, the budget, structural changes, tax policy, monetary policy, and privatization. It will also hold a special discussion on structural changes and the increase in competition.



## Job seeking up 1.2% in Nov.

By DAVID HARRIS

The number of jobseekers increased a seasonally adjusted 1.2 percent in November, to a total of 151,600, compared to 149,800 in October, according to figures published yesterday by the Employment Service.

The number of towns with unemployment higher than 10% increased to 15 last month, six more than in October. The highest jobless totals were registered in Ofakim (14.3%), Kuseifa (14.3%), Sderot (13.2%), Kiryat Gat (12.8%), Yeroham (12.7%), and Kiryat Malachi (12.3%).

"The social explosion that we feared and warned about is rapidly approaching," Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai said.

Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz said he will lead an unwavering battle against jobs being eliminated. He called on the prime minister to establish an emergency fund with 1% of the budget, or NIS 1 billion, that would be earmarked to fight unemployment and spoke out against the importation of foreign workers.

A group of ministers, including Yishai, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, is currently preparing documentation on unemployment, industry, and the currency exchange rate for consideration by the cabinet.

In the third quarter, unemployment jumped to 8.1%, the Central Bureau of Statistics recently revealed. There was a 0.1% increase in the number of new immigrant jobseekers last month to 11,000. At the same time, there was a 0.8% reduction in the proportion of female jobseekers - down to 52.5% of the total.

The percentage of under 35s registered as jobseekers rose from 44.2% to 44.3% during November. Tomorrow, MK Yehuda Harel (Third Way) will introduce legislation aimed at fighting poverty.

Party workers say they have already ensured the program will receive a majority. The plan will include:

- The declaration of a national war on poverty throughout the next decade;
- The creation of a national authority for the fight against poverty;
- Aid to ensure the completion of school and professional education;
- Special training programs for the religious and Arab communities.

The aims of the program are to increase the number of school pupils passing matriculation exams to 80%; to increase the number 25-44 year olds with more than 13 years of education from 42% to 60%; and to reduce the gaps between the Jewish and Arab communities. The total cost of the project is estimated at NIS 18 billion over 10 years.

## Donor nations pledge \$750m. for Palestinian Authority projects

By JOSEPH SCHUMAN

PARIS (AP) - Donor countries have committed to \$750 million in grants and loans for development projects in the West Bank and Gaza strip, with another \$150m. in private investment guarantees.

That will likely translate into about \$500-600m. actually disbursed in 1998, according to the World Bank, which hosted the donor's annual meeting.

The donors also said they would continue to support Palestinian development beyond the current, five-year plan, due to end next year.

During the two-day conference, the Israeli delegation committed Israel to supporting the

Palestinian development process. That includes new efforts to give Palestinian workers unlimited access to workplaces in Israel.

The new commitments come as the Palestinians near the end of a 1993-1998 development plan for which donors pledged \$3.6b. and delivered about \$1.5b. to different projects.

The donor countries want the Palestinian Authority to install a stronger legal framework within its territory and greater government transparency, World Bank officials said earlier.

The PA wants funds to carry out about 20 projects in the three-year plan for the West

Bank and the Gaza Strip. It sought \$20m. to bolster a housing plan, \$15m. to help establish a judicial system, \$1.4m. in technical assistance to banks and \$44m. for schools and hospitals.

Also among the infrastructure projects for water systems and roads was a Palestinian tourism company's bid to build a hotel in Bethlehem, an undertaking that already has nearly 75% of its funding but needs an additional \$10m.

Among nations participating in the conference were Israel, the US, European Union nations, Japan and Saudi Arabia. The latter four were the biggest donors from the previous development plan.

## US expert: Israeli companies do not understand tourists' needs

By DAVID HARRIS

Israel is losing out on potential tourists because the tourism industry does not understand the real requirements of overseas visitors, competition expert Michael Fairbanks of the US-based Monitor Company said recently.

Speaking at the launch of the Center for Middle East Competitive Strategy's regional tourism cluster project, Fairbanks was attacked by leading industry professionals in the audience who claimed they do know what the customer wants and the decline in tourism here is the fault of the slowing peace process.

Fairbanks suggested that Israel's tourism marketing is failing. In 1996 the government spent more than any other per capita on marketing, with a total budget of \$35 million.

"Don't look at the demographics, look at the best customers for you," urged Fairbanks, who suggested the best approach is to create

a high-quality, expensive product, which will attract the biggest-spending tourists. "We talk about numbers of tourists too much and not about the quality of the tourists."

Israel's main marketing strategy - understanding the demographics of visitors - is the least advanced way of reading the market, Fairbanks added. A more advanced stage is a survey about product segmentation, but the top priority must be understanding "the preferences in a tourist's brain."

The center issued a list of recommendations for the improvement of the industry in Israel:

- Establishing a forum for strategy management including government officials and representatives of the public and private sectors.
- Seeking new tourism options that attract tourists spending \$200 per day.
- Testing the needs of tourists

from different countries.

• Improving government marketing and increasing coordination.

• Increasing cooperation with private bodies in the Palestinian Authority-controlled areas, Jordan and Egypt.

The center suggests that the most desired tourism product is high income and high quality, minimally affected by seasonality, away from densely populated areas, easy to market and difficult to replicate.

Tourism Ministry Director-General David Litvak said many of the recommendations are worth examining.

The center was established with financial backing from the Dutch government to encourage greater economic cooperation between Israel and its neighbors. The tourism cluster is one of four established to ensure a joint regional approach to the industry. The others have been set up in the chemicals, textiles and multimedia fields.

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# What goes up

After years of vigorous growth fueled by mass immigration the property market will have lost in 1997 up to 15% of its value

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Sitting in his office on one of Jerusalem's sprawling Givat Beit-Ha Kerem construction sites, marketing director Avi T. has very little to do. "I called my boss last week and asked him if he had a way to keep me busy; I feel bad sitting all day doing nothing," he confided.

Avi is not alone. The economic slowdown is clearly impacting the property sector, where declining demand over the past 12 months has resulted in depressed activity and falling prices.

"The market is at a standstill," Avi sighs. "Two years ago things were much easier. Today every deal is complicated. The buyer compares the different companies and tries to milk another discount. People come in, ask for information and never come back."

Surely, the bored sales manager may be exaggerating when saying that in his three decades in the property business he has never seen a slow down as severe as the current one. Building, like most industries, is affected by cyclical changes. However, considering that the current slowdown is intertwined with the ebbing of this decade's mass immigration, the situation unfolding might indeed be more than just another cyclical gap.

When real-estate expert Peter Linneman of the Wharton Business School of the University of Pennsylvania predicted two years ago a drop of 15% to 30% in residential property prices "within two years," he was attacked from all corners of the local property sector. "That American," said a host of contractors, realtors and investors, lacks "an understanding" of the Israeli market's unique features.

For his part, Linneman noted that he had encountered identical reactions in other countries, from the UK to Japan, where he had predicted property crashes a year or two prior to their occurrences.

Since then, Linneman has clearly been vindicated. The question now is only to what extent.

Industry sources estimate that housing prices, in most regions,

have so far fallen by 5 to 15 percent, in real terms during the last 12 months. Where the market will now proceed is, of course, the million-dollar question.

Although some contractors are postponing planned projects and others are even returning plots to the Israel Land Authority, the number of those who actually face financial extinction remains low.

To make the picture even more confusing the Central Bureau of Statistics' housing prices' indicator has proven this year its unreliability, indicating an appreciation where prices have clearly contracted.

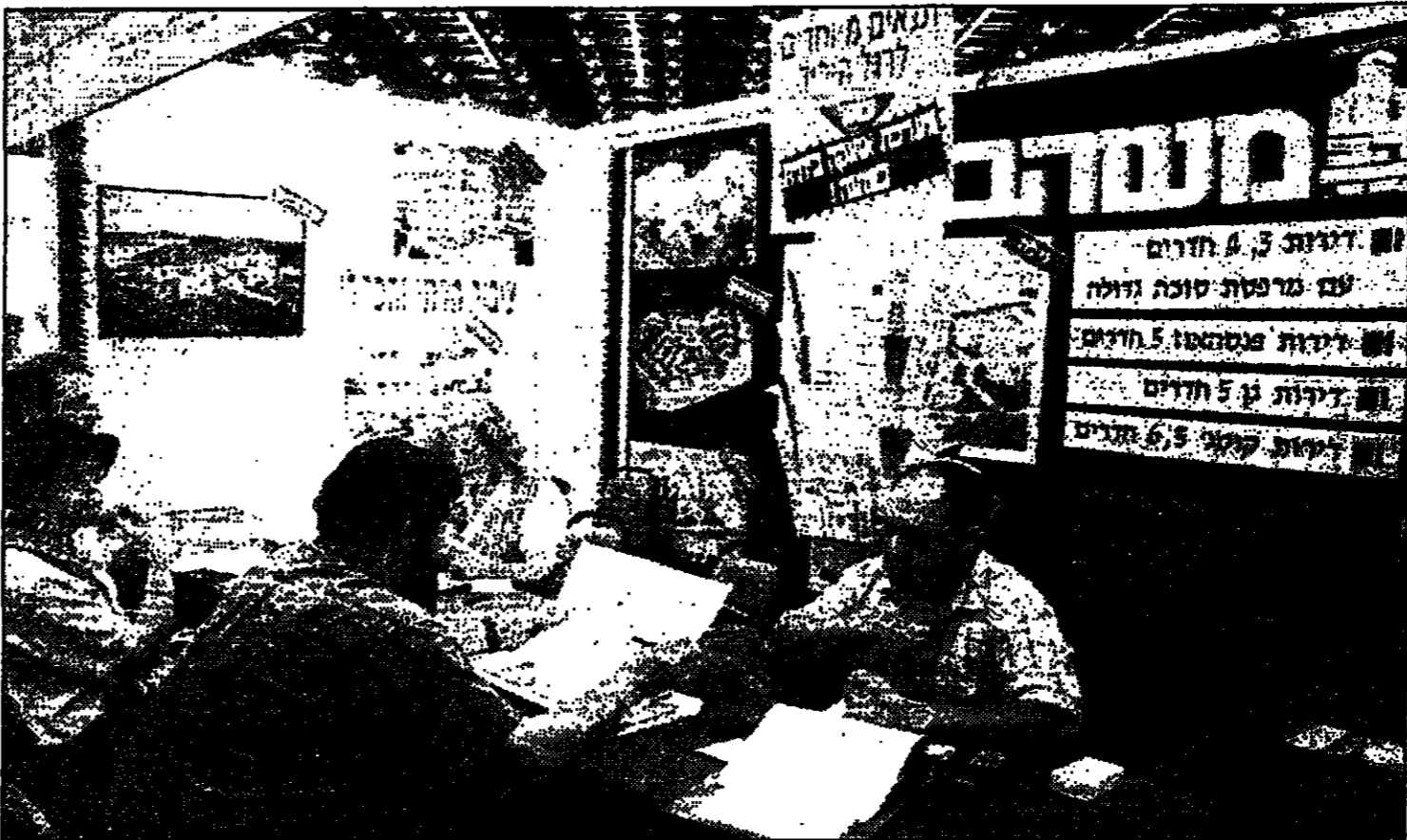
The CBS itself admits it has a problem with the calculations and established seven months ago a special committee to revise an index which should become a major means for assessing the state of the property market. In an interim report the committee recommended that the measurement will be based in the future on rent prices rather than on sales of new and second-hand apartments, as is done today.

A POSSIBLE explanation for the housing index's unreliability is that prices of new apartments can be misleading. When pressed by falling demand, contractors offer bonuses, such as an extra parking spot or a storage room, for no additional payment. "Contractors feel uncomfortable selling for \$190,000 an apartment they would have sold for \$200,000 a year ago," Avi T. said.

In addition to that, entrepreneurs don't want to give discounts lest they be confronted by clients who previously purchased apartments in the same building at higher prices. Finally, the costs of offering a more expensive kitchen or a higher building standard are relatively low for the entrepreneur.

Some experts think that the market's behavior this year was merely a long-overdue price adjustment, pushing prices back to an economically justified level from the unrealistic peaks of late 1995.

Figures published by the Housing Ministry show that during the first nine months of the year sales of new apartments, by



Just looking? Apartment shopping during a recent housing fair in Jerusalem.

(Brian Hessler)

the 10 largest construction companies, fell by 12% compared with the equivalent period in 1996.

"I don't know if we can say that the market is frozen, but it is clear that activity is at a lower level than where it was a year-and-a-half ago, and that prices are falling," said Meir Nachson CEO of Anglo-Saxon Real Estate Agency.

During the first half of 1996 some 70,000 houses - both new and second-hand - changed hands, while the second half saw a mere 55,000 such transactions. Nachson estimates that in the whole of 1997 some 105,000 to 110,000 apartments will have been sold.

Within the market's various sectors, the sharpest fall was felt in the most luxurious apartments.

"Bigger and more expensive houses were hit worse than others. Houses which had previously

been sold for \$2 to \$2.5 million, lost almost 20% of their market value. The decline was mainly felt across the coastal plain where prices fell 20-30%, according to Nachson.

The only major city in which luxury-apartment prices were not severely hit is Jerusalem, which continues to attract overseas investors. However, foreigners who buy in the capital often do so for ideological reasons, which have little to do with the market's actual condition.

Meanwhile, some of the non-ideological foreign investors have apparently lost some of their previous enthusiasm, in the wake of political developments they may have failed to forecast.

At the same time, the sharp rise in housing prices earlier this decade made prices less attractive

for those who could get higher returns elsewhere in the global village.

While the most luxurious houses were the first to decline, prices of two-bedroom apartments remained almost unchanged, reflecting a much more solid demand on the part of a far broader, and better-rooted, social layer. "Young couples and new immigrants are the main buyers of these apartments," said Nachson, who says that in this corner of the market prices rose in some areas even during this relatively depressed year.

Three-bedroom apartments depreciated particularly in the towns south of Tel Aviv, including Rishon LeZion, Rehovot, Ness Ziona and Ashdod.

Upscale, non-luxury apartments of four to five bedrooms, also

depreciated, with Ramat Aviv flats losing 10% of their average market value during the last year.

The capital and its surroundings were less affected by the slowdown in the housing industry, according to Nachson. "In Jerusalem there is always a shortage of apartments," he said, adding that prices not only in the thick of the capital, but even as far from it as Beit Shemesh, remained stable.

IT IS universally agreed that the main cause for the current slowdown is the decline in the post-communist immigration which flooded Israel at the onset of the decade.

The annual number of new immigrants, which has been steadily falling since its peak of 185,000 in 1990 and 147,800 in

1991, is expected to amount to about 55,000-58,000 in 1997, versus 70,600 in 1996. Most of those who came with the first big waves have already found housing.

Besides shouldering these historic circumstances, the housing market is also being pinched by the more mundane economic cycles, which currently mean in Israel a slow-down, after half a decade of vigorous growth.

All over the world, real estate prices tend to rise following an improvement in the standard of living. Conversely, in times of economic uncertainty people take less financial risks, like loans and mortgages.

Contractors complain that the government's failure to increase subsidies for young couples' mortgages over the past three years has also contributed to the market's weakness. With an average subsidized mortgage of NIS 70,000 young couples can't make the kind of financial commitments which would jump-start the housing market, they claim.

Even so, a senior Bank Leumi official familiar with the real-estate sector believes that mortgages will remain unchanged in the next year. "The government will decide to update the mortgages only if there will be elections next year," he predicted.

The main question, naturally, is how long the current crisis will last. The general estimate is that if overall growth accelerates in the second half of 1998, consequently generating renewed demand, higher property prices will result.

Another factor that may lead to rising prices is a possible shortage. Nachson estimates that the market currently needs some 45,000 new apartments a year. The official forecast for this year is 44,000 to 45,000 housing starts, and if the number declines next year it will eventually result in declining supply and rising prices.

"This is the time to buy an apartment," suggests Avi T. "It's a real buyers' market. Those who look for an apartment and don't buy now are making a mistake; from where we have arrived prices can only rise."

Time will tell.

## Israel's new flavor of the month

By JESSICA STEINBERG

Nothing conjures up memories of childhood more than drippy ice cream cones on a hot summer day. For those of you who grew up on Baskin Robbins, life in Israel, in the absence of Rocky Road, Mint Chocolate Chip and Jamocha Almond Fudge, must be a painful experience.

Well, pine no more. Steven Esses, the Israeli licensee for Dunkin' Donuts, recently signed an agreement with Allied Domecq, the owner of the largest ice cream retailer in the world, Baskin Robbins, to open up three flagship stores. Esses, who created a local gastronomic sensation with Dunkin' Donuts, now dreams of leveraging his pre-existing stores by offering two powerful caloric punches in one shop.

"My idea was one, maybe two flagship stores and then a series of Dunkin' Donuts-Baskin Robbins combo shops," says Esses over coffee at his Dunkin' Donuts location in the Jerusalem mall. "I knew that Ben & Jerry's, Haagen Dazs and Blue Moon shops don't make money."

Esses says there are about 100 Baskin Robbins-Dunkin' Donuts combo shops worldwide, including one Sbarro pizza-Baskin Robbins-Dunkin' Donuts combo in London.

Despite Allied Domecq's original opposition to the two-for-one idea, Esses melted the company down, citing the higher rents and labor costs that stand-alone shops entail. "It's a pretty crowded ice cream market around here," says



Local sellers face a tough challenge as Baskin Robbins, the world's largest ice cream retailer, sets up shop in Israel.

Esses. "And ice cream is an expensive product." Esses plans to focus on the chain's specialties, such as its ready-made ice cream cakes and special line of drinks, which includes fruit smoothies and coffee coolers.

He also plans to offer specials at the combo stores, such as buy two dozen doughnuts and receive a free ice cream cone. Or seasonal promotions, including selling family-size containers to supermarkets several times a year - during American Food month or before the school summer break.

Esses figures start-up costs will total \$1 million, which includes establishing infrastructure, importing the ice cream, cones, sprinkles and paper goods from the kosher-certified Baskin Robbins plant in Canada and running a simple advertising campaign.

While Allied Domecq, which recorded revenue of \$10 million in 1996, provides US franchises alone with \$45 million for television advertising campaigns, and company representatives are "there when you open your doors," Esses says international outlets are more independent.

"When you run an international franchise in a foreign country, you have a certain amount of independence and you can be a little different," says Esses of his Allied Domecq franchise agreement.

Baskin Robbins might have the big name and tasty flavors to help Esses make his dreams come true, but the competition from the big-name players promises to be stiff. Ice cream is a popular impulse buy in Israel, but stand-alone ice cream shops haven't been overly successful.

The Israel franchisee of Vermont-based Ben & Jerry's has 12 Israeli scoop shops - down from 14; Haagen Dazs has 6 local outlets; and Strauss operates 15 Blue Moon ice cream stores.

A large part of both Ben & Jerry's and Haagen Dazs's business in Israel is family packaging the pint-size ice cream containers sold in supermarkets and corner market freezers throughout the country.

On the flavor front, the competition will also be tight. Known for its 31 flavors, Baskin Robbins prides itself on a bank of 600 premium flavors, which includes taste sensations such as Green Tea in Southeast Asia and the number one worldwide favorite, Pralines and Cream. Ben & Jerry's has 35 flavors, and Haagen Dazs offers 42.

Only Ben & Jerry's, with its local manufacturing plant, makes flavors specifically for the Israeli market. A popular favorite here is Pesek Zman, a vanilla-based ice cream with pieces of Pesek Zman chocolate bar. Ben & Jerry's also produces special flavors, such as Milk and Honey during Rosh Hashana and Matza Crunch at Passover.

Esses's partners in Baskin Robbins will probably be the same investors from the Dunkin' Donuts franchise, Hillel Weinberger, Phil Rosen, Barry Eisenberg and Hillel Frishman, who owns ten Dunkin' Donuts outlets in the US.

"A franchise is only as good as the parent company," says Esses, commenting that Allied Domecq does a good job in some areas and is weaker in others.

Esses is currently negotiating with another American food franchise, not associated with Allied Domecq, for entry into the Israeli market.

### BITS & BYTES

WITH JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

**Laser Industries receives FDA clearance:** Laser Industries Ltd. of Tel Aviv recently announced that it received marketing clearance from the US Food and Drug Administration for its Alexandrite laser system used to remove unwanted body hair. Laser Industries markets more than 20 laser systems. In November, Laser announced a merger with ESC Medical Systems.

**Minicom receives \$200,000 in investment aid:** The Investment Center of the Ministry of Industry and Trade awarded Jerusalem's Minicom Advanced Systems investment aid of \$200,000. The money will allow the computer controls manufacturer to expand its facilities.

**Mint receives order from Societe Generale:** Mint Technologies recently received an order for its intelligent financial middleware solution, MINTE, from Societe

**Generale Bank in New York:** The bank will use the technology to integrate its computer systems. Mint Technologies of Herzliya provides software products to the financial industry.

**NetXchange signs agreement with KDD America:** NetXchange Communications, a provider of Internet telephony software and infrastructure, has signed an agreement with KDD America, a subsidiary of Kokusai Denshin Denwa Co., Ltd., an international telecommunications company.

According to the agreement, KDD America's fax delivery and fax broadcast service, TeleWeb Fax, will provide connectivity to NetXchange's Internet Xchange for Fax to route fax communications over the Internet. The technology is designed to save users money.

Meanwhile, NetXchange also announced that it expanded its Internet telephony ser-

vices through agreements with CyberCall NetService of Switzerland, Porto Franco of Italy and Swiftnet of the United Kingdom. Each of these independent Internet telephony service providers uses NetXchange's Internet Xchange platform designed to maximize telecommunications budgets for a variety of businesses that rely heavily on fax communications, such as banks, hotels and travel agencies.

**New Dimension and Oracle pen cooperation agreement:** New Dimension Software of Tel Aviv has announced the signing of a Cooperative Applications Initiative agreement with Oracle Corp.

As a result of the agreement, New Dimensions and Oracle will work together to develop new integration tools for Oracle's current business software applications. Oracle supplies software for information

management in more than 140 countries. Last year the company's annual revenues totaled \$5.7 billion.

**RSL receives \$1.3m. IAI deal:** RSL Electronics recently received a \$1.3m. contract to provide control systems to Israel Aircraft Industries. IAI will use the systems to upgrade Turkish Phantom jets. RSL of Migdal Ha'Emek develops computerized control systems for aircraft and fire control systems.

**Tevel to invest \$10m. in NetVision:** Tevel Israel International Communication recently signed an agreement to invest \$10m. in Israeli Internet service provider NetVision. In exchange, Tevel will receive a 33% stake in the company. Based in Tel Aviv, Tevel is a cable television operator and holds franchises for 24% of the potential Israeli market.

MISHTANIM LEADING TASE ISSUES

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RETZEZ CONTINUOUS TRADING SHARES

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## German sports body wants drink ban after deaths

BERLIN (Reuters) - The president of the German Sports Federation (DSB) called yesterday for an alcohol ban at sports events after two Danish fans were stabbed to death at the women's world handball championships.

Mascha von Richthofen told InfoRadio Berlin that fans could not be fully protected against a deranged attacker but he backed restrictions on drinking.

"I would welcome a general alcohol ban in stadiums and sports venues. However, you can never rule out the possibility some lunatic will commit an atroc-

ious deed which no one can prevent," von Richthofen said in an interview.

"You can carry out searches of individuals for metal objects at the entrance, but you can't stop people from bringing in small knives to peel apples," he added.

German police arrested a 48-year-old German man suspected of stabbing the two fans during Denmark's 22-22 semifinal win over Russia on Saturday.

The two victims were aged 34 and 39. One died instantly while the other died later. Police suspect the men had been drinking

and got into an argument.

Germany takes a more lenient view towards drinking at sports events compared to many countries.

It has witnessed a number of attacks on sports stars and other public figures, although they have not been related to drinking.

Tennis star Monica Seles was stabbed by a spectator at a tournament in Hamburg in 1993. The following year a deranged woman knifed soccer player Oliver Moeller as he watched his side play in an indoor tournament.

## Senna trial comes to a close today

IMOLA, Italy (Reuters) - The Ayrton Senna manslaughter trial comes to a close today, exactly a year after Formula One team chief Frank Williams and five other defendants were formally indicted.

Judge Antonio Costanzo will deliver his verdict in a makeshift Imola courtroom, down the road from the circuit where a statue now commemorates the Brazilian former triple world champion who crashed and died there on May 1, 1994.

But the likelihood is that Costanzo's long-awaited ruling will raise as many doubts as answers about the death of one of Formula One motor racing's greatest drivers.

The main question that Senna's fans want answered is what really caused the driver's Williams to hurtle off the track and into a concrete wall at around 220 kph as it entered the Tamburello bend during the eighth lap of the San Marino Grand Prix.

It is a question that many, not least Frank Williams himself, believe may never be answered.

"We'll probably never know what happened," the team chief said after giving evidence in court in October.

The prosecution alleges that a poor weld on Senna's steering column snapped as the Brazilian entered the Tamburello, causing him to lose control of his car.

It has also claimed that the way the track was maintained could also have contributed to the accident.

The former assertion has been vigorously challenged by Williams as well as other drivers.

"There was no proof that it (steering column failure) caused the accident, it must have been something else," Senna's former Williams team mate Damon Hill said.

The track claim was dismissed by Imola officials and Italian driver Michele Alboreto, who said the asphalt had some problems but not enough to throw a car off line.

Lawyers for Williams have indicated that Senna, a driver who rarely made mistakes, could have lost control while trying to avoid a piece of debris on the track.

Three track officials were charged with Williams and Williams' technical director Patrick Head and former designer Adrian Newey when the trial started last December.

However, last month prosecuting magistrate Maurizio Passarini made a dramatic about-turn when he asked for manslaughter charges against Williams and the three track officials to be shelved "for not having committed the offence."

That was interpreted as the end of the case for Williams, since it is highly unusual for a judge to find a person guilty if the prosecutor says there is no case to answer.

However, Head and Newey, who did not give evidence in person, still face possible sentences since Passarini asked for them to be given one-year suspended sentences.

He said their error had been "microscopic."

Lawyers for Head and Newey have protested their clients' innocence and said the prosecutor's request was based on "conjecture, arbitrary data and numerous hypotheses."

Under Italian law, both the prosecution and defence have an automatic right to appeal against any verdict, meaning that a definitive sentence may take years to achieve.

A guilty verdict on any of those involved could also potentially pose problems for the sport in Italy.

The world body FIA warned when the trial opened that drivers and teams might be unwilling to race in Italy in the light of the court action.

Benetton boss Flavio Briatore was even quoted as saying that he would not race his cars in Italy if there were convictions for Senna's death.

But Williams, asked by reporters in October whether he would boycott Italy if found guilty, replied: "I doubt it very much... I don't fear the future." If the judge hands down a not-guilty verdict, ruling that the steering column and track were not at fault, then the question will remain: What did cause Senna's death?

## Violence flares at weekend Italian soccer matches

ROME (AP) - About 15 fans and police were hurt in clashes during and after a match between Inter Milan and AS Roma on Sunday, while unruly spectators also marred Italian League games in Naples, Bergamo and Bologna.

In Naples, fans set fire to seats and banners in the stands and battled with police in an apparent effort to charge onto the field after the hosts' 4-0 loss to AC Parma. Ten officers were hurt, and two who were hit with plastic seats were taken to a hospital, the ANSA news agency reported.

The teams' buses left the stadium with police escorts.

In Milan, eight Roma fans and about the same number of city police and paramilitary police were hurt in clashes during half-time and following Inter Milan's 3-0 victory. The officer in charge of public order, Filippo Lapi, according to ANSA.

Many of the injuries, most of which were treated by first-aid stations at the stadium, came in confrontations after the game, when Roma fans tossed stadium seats at police.

Police accompanied the Romans, an estimated 7,000, on a

special train that took them back to the capital Sunday night.

In Bergamo, a stadium attendant was hurt when hit on the leg by a firecracker tossed from the stands during Milan's 2-1 win over Atalanta.

And police intervened to prevent clashes between rival fans outside the Dall'Ara Stadium after the Bologna-Lecce match.

During the game, which Bologna won 2-0, a flare or firecracker was tossed from a section holding Lecce supporters towards a group of home fans. There were no injuries reported.

## Connors, Gomez try to serve up a new concept

SYDNEY (AP) - Former world No. 1 Jimmy Connors tried a new tennis concept yesterday, but then said the rules should be left alone.

Connors played a set of one-serve tennis against Andres Gomez and won 6-3 before voicing his criticism of the idea.

"I never thought it was good to mess with the rules of the game and prefer the way we've been playing for the past 25 or 30 years," Connors said.

"The service change slowed the pace of the game and reduced aggression and certainly wouldn't be liked by today's serve and volley group," he said.

It took until the fifth game before

Connors became the first player to hold his serve and take a 3-2 lead.

Gomez failed to cope with the depth and penetration of Connors' shots and frequently found his returns catching the bottom of the net.

Down 5-2, Gomez held his first service in the eighth game.

Tournament official Cameron Williams produced the one-serve concept after he became disenchanted with the modern power game.

He said the change would make players work harder for points and reduce the potency of the first serve.

"We're not getting the charis-

matic players like Bjorn Borg or John McEnroe any more and many people are tired of the pounding serves from players like Goran Ivanisevic and Mark Philippoussis," Williams said.

"The one-serve concept has been argued for years and we'll now need to analyze and assess today's play and speak to the players before going further," Gomez said the one serve made the game tougher.

"It was a different style of game which required more concentration," said Gomez. "We had to make the first serve and it was tough to hold on with what was a second serve."

## Botham: English cricket is in the Dark Ages

LONDON (Reuters) - Ian Botham has accused English cricket of being stranded in the dark ages and of missing a golden opportunity to revolutionize the sport.

The former England captain said: "Football is so popular now and rugby is taking off. If we don't get moving in cricket even the Eskimos will stuff us soon."

Botham feels an outstanding opportunity to update the game was missed when many of the points in a recent report by English Cricket Board chairman Lord McLaurin were rejected by the counties.

"You have got to have a promotion and relegation system," Botham said. "I remember playing for Durham against another county near the bottom of the table at the end of June, looking around the ground and thinking what the hell are we playing this game for. We were just going through the motions."

"You don't see Liverpool playing Everton at 3 p.m. on a Thursday. I think cricket should move towards more regular evening matches."

Another favorite target of Botham is over-age players keeping promising youngsters on the sidelines.

"When you see guys of 40 playing second team cricket they are usually hanging on for a benefit and keeping promising youngsters out of the game."

"If you had a pension fund it would trim county staff and create room for younger players. There is too much dead wood," he said.

Botham was more upbeat about England's chances in the upcoming series in the West Indies.

"We have not won a five-Test series since 1986-7 and I find that amazing. But I believe England will win in the West Indies this winter," he said, adding: "The only trouble is that that would throw a veil over the

shortcomings in the English game.

"We have got to make the game here more attractive and put bums on seats. Perhaps the best thing for English cricket was that 3-0 stuffing by Zimbabwe (last season) in the one-day series. It made some of the lads wake up and decide they had to do the business or they might be out of a job."

The wickets in the West Indies are among the slowest in the world now and for the first time in a long while we could actually beat them in their own back yard. The England boys have a lot more self confidence now and will fly the flag well.

"But English cricket is part of our heritage and if it does not start to swing soon it will have just sunk out of sight." Botham was speaking at the launch of a cricket year book to which he contributed a foreword summarising his ideas on the future of the English game.

## Rusedski wins BBC sports award

LONDON (Reuters) - Canadian Greg Rusedski, now competing as a Briton, was on Sunday named the BBC's Sports Personality of the Year.

Rusedski, who reached the final of the US Open, finished ahead of another tennis player, Tim Henman.

World and Olympic champion rower Steve Redgrave was third in the poll by British viewers.

The British Lions, who became only the third rugby union team in history to win a series in South Africa, took the team award.

Swiss Martina Hingis, who won three of the four Grand Slam tennis titles this year, collected the Overseas Personality award.

Serve Ballesteros, captain of Europe's victorious Ryder Cup golf team, received a special award for services to sport over the last 20 years.

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صناديق الإعلانات



PRIME TIME TV

Table with 8 columns (1-8) and 8 rows (19:30-23:00) listing TV programs and channels.

CRITICS' CHOICE

OPERA

HELEN KAYE

Ticket holders to the NIO production of The Emperor of Atlantis and The Seven Deadly Sins can get in free to a concert of chamber music from the Terezin (Theresienstadt) camp by Jewish composers who perished in the Holocaust...

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Celloist Boris Pergamenschikov, violinist Leonidas Kavakos, and pianist Lars Vogt perform the Tchaikovsky piano trio as well as the Brahms second cello sonata and the Kodaly duo for violin and cello tonight at the Henry Crown Symphony Hall in Jerusalem and tomorrow at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center (8:30).

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

\*\*\*\* ULEE'S GOLD — As the title character in Victor Nunez's vividly small and unhurried film, Peter Fonda is so dry, so stolid,



Peter Fonda is a no-nonsense beekeeper, a Vietnam vet and widower in 'Ulee's Gold.'

so deliberately blank — his long-legged gait slowed by a slight limp, his line delivery flat and functional as an ironing board, his gaze deadened by old pain gone dull — that his performance comes precariously close to bad. This first impression may not be fair and in fact the longer one spends watching Fonda's Ulee Jackson go about his quiet business as a no-nonsense Florida beekeeper, a Vietnam vet and widower, responsible for looking after his two granddaughters, the more impressive the actor's work seems. And Nunez does a delicate job of letting Ulee's measured manner guide the shape and pace of the film which, despite one or two sentimental missteps, has the spare and carefully structured feel of a well-written novella. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Not recommended for children.)

TV

- CHANNEL 1: 8:30 News flash, 8:31 News in Arabic, 8:45 Good Morning Israel... EDUCATIONAL TV: 8:00 Life on the Screen... MIDDLE EAST TV: 7:00 TV Shop, 14:30 Body Electric...

ARABIC PROGRAMS

- 18:30 Apropro - current, 19:00 News, 19:30 News flash, 19:31 Garlic Pepper and Olive Oil...

CABLE

- ITV 3 (23): Broadcasts will begin after coverage of the Knesset... ETV 2 (23): 6:15 Today's Programs, 6:30 Cartoons...

MOVIE CHANNEL

- 11:30 An Element of Truth (1995) - a beautiful young man tries to pull off a sting operation in an investment brokerage firm but finds herself a partner in a greater game...

WEATHER: Map of Israel showing weather conditions across different regions like Galilee, Samaria, and the Negev.

WINNING CARDS: Advertisement for a daily chance drawing with a grid of numbers and instructions for participation.

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS: 1 An outstanding part of the country (8), 9 How a bright idea comes to you? (2,1,5), 10 Cattle complaint (4)...

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting positions for words.

QUICK CROSSWORD: A smaller crossword puzzle with a list of clues and a grid.

JORDAN TV

- 14:00 Holy Koran, 14:10 Sandokan, 14:30 CRF, 14:35 Discovery, 15:30 Album Show...

JERUSALEM CINEMA

- 16:00 Fire Down Below 4:45, 7:15, 9:45, 12:00, 14:00, 17:15, 19:45, 22:00... 16:00 Fire Down Below 4:45, 7:15, 9:45, 12:00, 14:00, 17:15, 19:45, 22:00...

MOVIES

- 6:25S278 Face/Off 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 - Best Friend's Wedding - Mortal Combat 5, 7:30, 9:45... 6:25S278 Face/Off 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 - Best Friend's Wedding - Mortal Combat 5, 7:30, 9:45...

MOVIES

- 7:30, 9:45 - The Full Monty 5, 7:30, 9:45... 7:30, 9:45 - The Full Monty 5, 7:30, 9:45... 7:30, 9:45 - The Full Monty 5, 7:30, 9:45...

### Inside

**Colts blank Dolphins**  
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**Senna trial set to end today**  
Page 17

**Sports Editors**  
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

**Giggs takes United four points clear**

LONDON (Reuters) - Ryan Giggs scored his fourth goal of the season as Manchester United beat Aston Villa 1-0 last night to increase their lead at the top of the premier league to four points.

One goal, a left foot shot through goalkeeper Michael Oakes' legs in the 52nd minute, was a poor return for the champions' domination.

England forward Teddy Sheringham missed a harshly-awarded penalty in the 66th minute, one of several good chances wasted by United who found Villa centre back Ugo Ehiogu and Oakes in great form.

Villa were under almost constant pressure in the first half once United's Peter Schmeichel saved from Ian Taylor after the midfielder was put through by Stan Collymore in the seventh minute.

Three minutes later, winger Giggs should have scored at the far post after Oakes parried Teddy Sheringham's shot, but Ugo Ehiogu cleared Giggs' tap off the line.

Oakes then saved from Ole Gunnar Solskjaer with his feet before an extraordinary onslaught by United in the 35th minute ended with Giggs' left foot volley being flicked on to the post by Cole.

United finally earned their reward when Cole put Giggs through with a delightful flick and the winger scored from 18 meters.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	18	12	4	2	44	13	40
Blackburn	18	10	6	2	33	19	36
Chelsea	18	11	2	5	41	18	35
Leeds	18	9	4	5	28	19	31
Arsenal	18	8	6	4	32	21	30
Liverpool	17	8	4	6	30	17	28
Derby	17	8	3	7	35	27	27
Leicester	18	7	6	5	23	17	27
Newcastle	18	7	4	7	20	21	25
West Ham	18	8	1	9	25	28	25
Wimbledon	18	6	5	7	19	21	23
Aston Villa	18	6	3	9	19	24	21
Sheff Wed	18	6	3	9	30	29	21
Coventry	18	4	4	10	17	24	20
Crystal P	18	5	5	8	17	25	20
Bolton	18	4	8	6	18	27	20
Southampton	18	6	1	11	22	28	19
Tottenham	18	4	4	10	16	32	18
Everton	18	3	5	10	16	27	14
Barnsley	18	4	2	12	17	47	14



WINNING RETURN - Windsurfer Amit Inbar came back from retirement and recovered from injury to win the silver medal at the world championships yesterday. (Sara Hersh)

## Inbar takes silver medal at world windsurfing championships

By HEATHER CHAIT

Windsurfer Amit Inbar, whose career seemed to be heading for the rocks last year, won the silver medal at the Mistral World Championships in Perth, Western Australia yesterday.

Behind the remarkable result lies the fact that Inbar competed with a broken shoulder, injured in a road accident, and has barely trained for the past month.

Before yesterday's last three sails, Inbar was lying in first place but his relatively poor placings of 34, 11 and five yesterday moved him into second place. The world champion for this year is Aaron McIntosh from New Zealand.

Inbar's rival, Gal Friedman, who won Israel's only ticket to the Atlanta Olympics from where he brought home the bronze medal, was forced to quit during the competition due to back trouble.

Friedman himself took the silver medal at the world championships held in Haifa last year but

Inbar's recent comeback has been incredible. After a year's break from the sport during which he spent time in India, developing an interest in yoga and a correct diet, he returned to compete this year, raking up impressive wins in competitions in Germany and the Netherlands.

As with Atlanta, the rivalry between Inbar and Friedman is expected to reach peak levels as the countdown to Sydney 2000 begins.

Michal Hein, Israel's representative in the women's category, finished in 26th place.

## Clippers sink in Seattle

SEATTLE (AP) - Vin Baker, Gary Payton and Sam Perkins each scored 21 points and the Seattle SuperSonics used a 17-0 run to beat the Los Angeles Clippers 107-101 Sunday night in Seattle.

Payton had 14 assists for the Sonics, who trailed 86-77 in the final minute of the third period before their defense took over. They forced the Clippers into 11 fourth-quarter turnovers and held them scoreless for the first six minutes of the final period.

LaMond Murray led the Clippers with 21 points, while Brent Barry and Eric Piatkowski had 18 apiece.

Perkins didn't miss a shot in the game. He was 5-for-5 from the field, including 4-for-4 from 3-point range, and 7-for-7 from the foul line.

Hawks 93, Kings 89

In Sacramento, California, Mookie Blaylock scored 24 of his 26 points in the second half and Christian Laettner hit a tiebreaking jumper with two seconds left as Atlanta beat Sacramento.

After Sacramento's Billy Owens hit a jumper with 16 seconds remaining to tie it at 89-89, Laettner put the Hawks ahead by sinking a jumper from the corner.

After using their last timeout, the Kings couldn't get the ball inbounds so they called an illegal timeout that resulted in a technical free throw by Atlanta's Steve Smith. The Kings then fouled Blaylock, who made a free throw for the final margin.

Cortis Williamson led Sacramento with 20 points.

Grizzlies 110, Rockets 105

In Vancouver, British Columbia, Bryant Reeves scored a season-high 23 points and Shaheed Abdur-Rahim added a career-high 13 assists as Vancouver defeated Houston.

The Grizzlies have won two straight home games and seven this season, one short of their total at home for all of last season.

Kevin Willis led the Rockets with 28 points, and Charles Barkley had 22 points and 21 rebounds. Houston has lost two in a row following a season-high, nine-game winning streak.

Lakers 119, Mavericks 89

In the Los Angeles suburb of Inglewood, Kobe Bryant scored 16 of his career-high 30 points in the second quarter, leading the Los Angeles Lakers over the Dallas Mavericks.

Bryant topped his previous high of 27, set two nights earlier against Houston. Rick Fox added 19 points for the Lakers, while Eddie Jones had 17 and Elden Campbell 15.

Michael Finley and Dennis Scott each scored 18 points for the Mavericks, who lost their fifth consecutive game and 11th in a row to the Lakers.

## England beat Pakistan, reach Sharjah final

SHARJAH (Reuters) - Adam Hoolioake's England one-day specialists, the outsiders when the Champions' Trophy began, clinched their place in the final yesterday.

England went through after winning a tense match against Pakistan by eight runs, scoring 215 for nine in their 50 overs and dismissing their opponents for 207 in 49 overs.

Hoolioake's side will know who they face in Friday's final after today's game between India and West Indies.

A West Indies win would put them in the final with two victories. If India win, calculators will be required to decide on net run rate between them, the West Indians and Pakistan.

England finished their encounter against Pakistan as groggy as a boxer who has been knocked down several times in a tough fight.

"Every time I thought the game was won, every time we relaxed, they came back at us. You just could not let them out of your grip for an over," said captain Hoolioake.

England were restricted to a mod-

est total even though openers Alistair Brown and Alec Stewart put on 71 and Graeme Hick followed up with 40.

From 111 for two at the halfway stage they found it difficult to cope with spinners Manzoor Akar and Saqlain Mushtaq, who collected eight wickets on a pitch that gave them considerable assistance on the fifth day of the tournament.

Then, England new ball bowler Dougie Brown grabbed a wicket with his first delivery, removing Shahid Afridi for naught.

With the first ball of the second over, Dean Headley bowled Aamir Sohail for one to reduce Pakistan to five for two.

Saeed Anwar, who hit a century on Sunday against India, and Ijaz Ahmed put on 94 for the third wicket but when they were out in successive overs Pakistan were in trouble.

Manzoor held the rest of the innings together until he was run out in the 46th over for 44 which, allied to his 50, earned him the man-of-the-match award in only his second one-day international.

## Surgery reveals Atar aggravated an old injury

By ORI LEWIS

Betar Jerusalem's recent new signing, Reuven Atar, underwent arthroscopic surgery in Haifa yesterday following renewed pain in his knee. It was discovered that an old ligament injury had been aggravated and at least three more weeks are required before the his condition can be reassessed.

Atar, who moved to Jerusalem from Hapoel Haifa last month in a blaze of publicity and high expectations from the club's supporters, was, in fact, injured when Betar bought him. But the club failed to carry out a medical before the deal went through and the international

player took the field injured in his first, and so far only match for Betar.

In other news concerning the Jerusalem club, FIFA, world soccer's international governing body, has asked Betar to accept three installments from Spanish club Salamanca amounting to \$1.15 million for Ronen Harazi. FIFA were called in to arbitrate over Harazi's transfer fee after the two sides failed to agree terms.

Another communication from FIFA yesterday confirmed Lilach Assoulin as Israel's first-ever international woman referee. She is eligible to officiate in women's matches.

## UAE's first-minute goal sinks South Africa

RIYADH (Reuters) - A goal after just 45 seconds by defender Hassan Suhail Mubarak was enough to give the United Arab Emirates a surprise 1-0 win over South Africa in the Confederations' Cup yesterday.

Mubarak stole behind the African champions' defence to stab home a tantalising free kick from Mohammed Ali.

Another free kick from Ali two minutes later almost set up

a second but captain Adnan Al Talyani missed a golden opportunity by shooting wide.

Despite almost total domination after that, South Africa could not find an equalizer, coming close on several occasions including hitting the bar.

The result gives the Emirates, who lost their first game 2-0 to Uruguay, a chance to end up as a surprise semi-finalist in the eight-nation tournament.

South Africa will now be

very likely to take action against absentees Lucas Radebe and midfielder Eric Tinkler. The two were excused duty for the opening 2-2 draw with the Czech Republic to enable them to play for their English premier league clubs but missed their flights from London and arrived in Riyadh too late to play.

In another match yesterday, Uruguay beat the Czech Republic 2-1.

December at the IPO

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Parke Requiem

The New York Philharmonic Orchestra

Wednesday 17:30, Thursday 19:00

Dvořak - Carnival Overture

Mozart - Piano Concerto

Dvořak - Symphony no. 8

The New York Philharmonic Orchestra

Wednesday 17:30, Thursday 19:00

Parke Requiem

The New York Philharmonic Orchestra

Wednesday 17:30, Thursday 19:00



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**'No sport without the queen of sports'**  
Some of Israel's most important athletes, including triple-jumper Rogel Nahum and hammer thrower Igor Geller yesterday turned out to demonstrate against the severe lack of funding for track and field. 'An Olympic medal costs money' and 'Prepare the investigation (into the failure) of Sydney 2000' were two slogans which the athletes held aloft outside the Knesset. The athletes are effectively paralyzed by the financial drought. Only NIS300,000 was allocated to track and field in the 1997 budget as compared to NIS800,000 in the 1995 budget. Deputy education minister Moshe Peled, who met the protesters had nothing to offer. 'Times are hard, cuts are being made everywhere and sport with also have to share the burden,' he said.

התאחדות הספורטאים